

LIFESTYLE

Navy veteran finds her calling on a Calif. farm
Page 15

WORLD CUP

America is hooked on soccer – better get used to it
Back page



NATION

Device that lets paraplegics walk cleared by FDA
Page 7

► Military: The swift, quiet rise of JSOC commander Votel » Page 3

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Free to Deployed Areas

Iraqi troops make push for militant-held city

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
AND SAMEER N. YACOB

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD—Iraqi troops backed by helicopter gunships launched an operation early Saturday aimed at dislodging Sunni militants from the northern city of Tikrit, one of two major urban centers they seized

in recent weeks in a dramatic blitz across the country.

After watching much of Iraq slip out of government hands, military officials sought to portray the push that began before dawn as a significant step that puts the army back on the offensive. They said the operation includes commandos, tanks and heli-

copters, as well as pro-government Sunni fighters and Shiite volunteers.

Tikrit residents reported clashes on the outskirts of the city and to the south, but the extent of the fighting was unclear.

Jawad al-Bolani, a security official in the Salahuddin Operation Command, said the immediate ob-

jective is Tikrit, the hometown of former dictator Saddam Hussein and one of two major cities to fall to the al-Qaida breakaway Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and allied Sunni militants. He said there was no concrete timeline for the operation to conclude.

SEE PUSH ON PAGE 5

DOD: Iraqi security forces stiffening resistance to ISIL rebels

Page 5



U.S. Special Forces and Marines train for combat on horseback at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center near Bridgeport, Calif. Horses are an effective way for Special Forces and other small units to move around the battlefield, instructors said.

ROBERT M. STORW/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

SPECIAL FORCES SADDLE UP

Marines training center revives horsemanship skills | Page 4

‘Significant and chronic’ failures cited in VA review

By JIM KUHNHENN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Citing “significant and chronic system failures” in the nation’s health system for veterans, a review ordered by President Barack Obama portrays the Department of Veterans Affairs as a struggling agency battling a corrosive culture of distrust, lacking in resources and ill-prepared to deal with an influx of new and older veterans with a range of medical and mental health care needs.

The scathing report by deputy White House Chief of Staff Rob Nabors says the Veterans Health Administration, the VA sub agency that provides health care to about 8.8 million veterans a year, has systematically ignored warnings about its deficiencies and must be fundamentally restructured.

Obama ordered the review last month in a response to widespread reports of long delays for treatment and medical appointments and of veterans dying while on waiting lists. But Nabors’ report goes far beyond the lengthy waits and manipulated schedules raised by whistle-blowers and chronicled in past internal and congressional investigations.

The review offers a series of recommendations, including a need for more doctors, nurses and trained administrative staff — proposals that are likely to face skepticism among some congressional Republicans who have blamed the VA’s problems on mismanagement, not lack of resources.

SEE REVIEW ON PAGE 2

QUOTE

OF THE DAY

"They could say they didn't fire at the agents intentionally. But for them to say that there were no shots fired within the United States, toward the United States Border Patrol, is a lie."

— Art del Cueto, president of a local border patrol union, discussing the firing of shots at U.S. Border Patrol agents in Arizona on Thursday by Mexican law enforcement

See story on Page 7

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TODAY

IN STRIPES

American Roundup	14
Business	23
Sunday comics	19
Crossword	19
Entertainment	22
Lifestyle	15-17
Opinion	12-13
Sports	24-32
Video Games	20-21
Weather	23

MILITARY



JOE GROMELSKI/Stars and Stripes

Obama views Marine Corps parade

President Barack Obama, Marine Corps Commandant Gen. James Amos and Marine Corps Barracks Washington Commanding Officer Col. Christian Cabaniss salute as bands and drill teams pass by during the evening parade at the Marine Barracks in southeast Washington on Friday. The 57-year-old summertime tradition features the U.S. Marine Band in a display of music and marching just after sunset. The band is also known as "The President's Own," and the parade is held every Friday night during the summer.

To view a photo gallery of the Marine Corps parade, go to: stripes.com/go/barracks

Review: Serious problems include lack of transparency, accountability

FROM FRONT PAGE

"We know that unacceptable, systemic problems and cultural issues within our health system prevent veterans from receiving timely care," Acting VA Secretary Sloan Gibson said in a statement following an Oval Office meeting Friday with Obama and Nabors. "We can and must solve these problems as we work to earn back the trust of veterans."

While the review finds deficiencies throughout the VA, it is especially critical of the Veterans Health Administration, which has already undergone some housecleaning. Earlier this week, the VA announced that Dr. Robert L. Jesse, who has been acting undersecretary for health and head of the VHA, was resigning. Jesse has been acting undersecretary for

health since May 16, when Robert Petzel resigned under pressure months before he was set to retire.

Nabors' report found that the VHA, the country's biggest health care system, acts with little transparency or accountability and many recommendations to improve care are slowly implemented or ignored. The report says concerns raised by the public, monitors or even VA leadership have been dismissed at the VHA as "exaggerated, unimportant, or 'will pass.'"

Rep. Jeff Miller, the Republican chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, said the report was a late but welcome response from the White House and vowed to work with the administration to fix the system.

"It appears the White House has finally come to terms with the serious and systemic VA health care problems we've been investigating and documenting for years," Miller said in a statement.

Among Nabors' other findings: ■ One-fourth of all the whistleblower cases under review across the federal government come from the VA. The department "encourages discontent and backlash against employees."

■ The VA's lack of resources reflects troubles in the health care field as a whole and in the federal government. But the VA has been unable to connect its budget needs to specific outcomes.

■ The VA needs to better prepare for changes in the demographic profile of veterans, including more female veterans, a surge

in mental health needs and a growing number of older veterans.

"No organization the size of VA can operate effectively without a high level of transparency and accountability," said Sen. Bernie Sanders, the Vermont independent who heads the Senate's Veterans' Affairs Committee. "Clearly that is not the case now at the VA."

Obama asked Nabors to stay at the VA temporarily to continue to provide assistance.

The White House said that over the past month, the VA has contacted 135,000 veterans and scheduled about 182,000 additional appointments. It has also used more mobile medical units to attend to veterans awaiting care.

DODDS SPORTS

Keep up with the champions of overseas military high school sports with Stars and Stripes. Visit Stripes.com/sports for DODEA sports news, scores, photos and more.



STARS AND STRIPES

MILITARY

JSOC chief Votel sees swift, quiet rise

By DAN LAMOTHE
The Washington Post

Shortly after a controversial Dec. 11 drone strike in Yemen, Lt. Gen. Joseph Votel began pressing for the United States to push back on accusations that it had killed numerous civilians in a wedding party in the process. He believed the criticism was unwarranted and didn't want al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula to use the narrative to score a propaganda victory, even though human rights advocates concluded that civilians had indeed died.

Those details, reported in the Wall Street Journal in May, are among the only recent public characterizations of Votel. The Army Ranger has led the military's secretive Joint Special Operations Command since June 2011,

overseeing the military's most highly classified missions and well-trained units. They include the Army's 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta, commonly known as Delta Force, the Naval Special Warfare Development Group, often called SEAL Team 6, and the Air Force's 24th Special Tactics Squadron, which frequently deploys with them.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel announced Tuesday that Votel is President Barack Obama's pick to serve as the next commander of U.S. Special Operations Command, the powerful four-star command that oversees U.S. Special Operations forces across the globe. The decision requires Senate confirmation, but it's hardly a surprise. Rather, it continues a swift, quiet ascent by Votel through the most elite forces in the military.

Votel, a married father of two, is rarely quoted, and has spent most of the past decade quietly working in Special Operations. He'll spend just three years as a three-star general if confirmed as the next chief of SOCOM, a relatively short time for any senior officer.

In becoming the next SOCOM nominee, Votel follows a recent playbook. The current SOCOM chief, Adm. William McRaven, previously served as the head of JSOC from June 2008 to August 2011. But the White House hasn't always moved JSOC's commander into the SOCOM job afterward.

In 2007, for example, President George W. Bush chose then-Vice Adm. Eric Olsen, SOCOM's deputy commander at the time, to run the four-star organization. JSOC had been run at the time by then-

Army Lt. Gen. Stanley McChrystal for four years. McChrystal would move on in 2008 to serve as the three-star direct of the Joint Staff before ultimately being promoted and taking over the war in Afghanistan in June 2009. In other words: If confirmed, Votel will move through the Army's highest ranks faster than McChrystal, perhaps JSOC's most celebrated commander ever.

Votel's resume is bolstered by command assignments in a variety of influential jobs. As a colonel he led the 75th Ranger Regiment — the Army's elite light-infantry Rangers — as its members parachuted into Afghanistan on Oct. 19, 2001, to set up what would become Camp Rhino, the first U.S. base established in the country.

In 2003, Votel established the U.S. Army's Counter Improvised Explosive Device Task Force as

a one-star general, advancing the military's ability to respond to the threat IEDs posed in Iraq. The organization was eventually broadened to become the Pentagon's Joint IED Defeat Task Force, or JIEDDO, and Votel stayed on as its deputy director.

He later became the deputy commanding general of the Army's famous 82nd Airborne Division, of Fort Bragg, N.C., and served as the deputy commanding general of operations for the Army task force that oversaw U.S. military operations in eastern Afghanistan for 15 months beginning in February 2007. He was subsequently selected to become a two-star general in September 2008 while serving as a deputy commanding general at JSOC. He held that job from July 2008 until July 2010.



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

A career of cuts

Barber Ernest "Smitty" Smith gives midshipman Joshua Chu of Richmond, Va., a haircut June 23 at the U.S. Naval Academy barbershop in Annapolis, Md. After 32 years of cutting hair at the academy, Smith plans to retire July 1. The barbershop is housed inside Bancroft Hall, the largest dormitory building in the world, which is home to the academy's entire student body.

Navy: Human error partly to blame for drone crash

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Human error and a malfunctioning control system are to blame for a November drone accident off the coast of Southern California that injured two sailors and caused \$30 million in damage to a warship, the Navy said in a newly unclassified report.

U-T San Diego reported Friday that the Navy report recommends administrative action against the warship's then-skipper, Capt. Andrew Hesser, and three crewmem-

bers for not doing enough to stop the drone from crashing into the San Diego-based Chancellorsville. The newspaper obtained a redacted copy of the report through a Freedom of Information Act request.

The drone breached the warship's hull. The sailors suffered minor injuries.

The report says the control tower at Point Mugu naval base also was slow to react.

"This unfortunate accident serves as a reminder of the hazards regularly faced by sailors conducting realistic at-sea training," Hesser said in a statement. "The

crew's heroic, rapid response in the wake of the drone strike limited damage to the ship and prevented serious injury or loss of life."

Lt. Rick Chernitzer, a Navy spokesman, said administrative action was taken against Hesser and the three crewmembers, but he added that he could not give details, citing privacy laws.

Hesser completed his tour of duty and did not lose his command as a result of the action, Chernitzer said.

Hawaii jury favored death for ex-soldier in girl's killing

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER
The Associated Press

HONOLULU — Jurors who decided the fate of a former soldier convicted of killing his 5-year-old daughter said their labored deliberations ended with eight of them wanting him sentenced to death and four of them wanting him to spend the rest of his life in prison.

Because they couldn't agree, Naeem Williams will be sentenced to life in prison without possibility for release for the 2005 beating death of his daughter, Talia.

Weighing the decision meant considering the violent beatings Williams said he inflicted on Talia to discipline her for bathroom accidents, graphic descriptions that one juror said will haunt him forever.

"I have a 4½-year-old granddaughter, and for the rest of my life in her I'm going to see the girl," juror Clarence Kaona told The Associated Press. "I'll never get those autopsy pictures out of my mind."

He voted for the death penalty. "I'm a little disappointed," he said. "I feel like we let the girl down."

It was the same jury that convicted Williams of murder in April that deliberated for about seven days before deciding they couldn't agree on a sentence. An indication of their turmoil was their announcement that they had reached their verdict Thursday afternoon but wanted to wait until Friday morning to read it because some of them were "emotionally drained."

The concept of sending someone to his death is unfamiliar in Hawaii, where capital punishment was abolished in 1957, before the islands became a state. But this jury had to make that decision because Williams' crime occurred in military housing and he was tried in the federal court system, where the death penalty is available.

U.S. District Judge J. Michael Seabright set an Oct. 14 hearing to formally sentence Williams.

MILITARY



NEW HORSEPOWER FOR WAR ZONES: MARINES BACK IN THE SADDLE



PHOTOS BY ROBERT M. STORM/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

The Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center near Bridgeport, Calif., has begun teaching an advanced horsemanship training course in order to teach Special Operations Forces the necessary skills to enable them to ride horses and move through terrain that can't be navigated by motor vehicles.

USA Today

BRIDGEPORT, Calif.

The men emerged over the crest of a ridge and guided their horses along a tree line, skirting a wide meadow. They picked their way along narrow trails, climbing higher into the Sierra until a panorama of snowcapped peaks and a broad green valley unfolded beneath them.

The men, Special Forces soldiers dressed in jeans and other civilian clothes, led their horses into a thick stand of pine trees, where they dismounted and let the horses drink from a clear mountain stream before breaking out their own rations.

At this remote training area high in the Sierra, the U.S. Marine Corps is reviving the horsemanship skills that were once a key part of the nation's armed forces but were cast aside when tanks and armored vehicles replaced them. The need to bring these skills back was driven home in Afghanistan in 2001, when the first Special Forces soldiers to arrive found themselves fighting on horseback alongside tribesmen in rugged terrain without roads. Many had never ridden a horse before.

"We don't want to reinvent anything," said Marine Capt. Seth Miller, the officer in charge of formal schools at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center. "These are skills that were lost."

Marine instructors are teaching the stu-

dents, most of them Army Special Forces soldiers, how to control horses, care for them and load packs. The students are taught how to calculate routes and distances for rides and what to look for when purchasing horses from locals. For example, checking teeth is a good way to determine age and avoid getting ripped off by a farmer trying to pass off an ancient mule or horse.

In a throwback to the old Wild West days, instructors are considering training soldiers in how to shoot from a moving horse.

No one is talking about bringing back the cavalry, but horses are an effective way for Special Forces and other small units to move around the battlefield, instructors said. They can travel long distances quietly and don't require the gasoline and massive logistics trains.

For all its advantages in technology, the U.S. military has been dragged into the most primitive of fights in Iraq and Afghanistan, driving home the point that technology isn't always the answer.

"We get caught up with what's new and high-speed," Miller said.

On a recent morning, 13 students packed their mules and horses shortly after sunrise at base camp, preparing for a 14-mile ride that would take them high into the Sierra, mountains that were familiar to gold prospectors more than a century ago. Students ride a total of about 110 miles during the 16-day course.

"My butt's going to be sore," said Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jeryd Leuck, who specializes in search-and-rescue operations, as he prepared to mount his horse, Chesty. Leuck said before he started the course, his only equestrian experience was a childhood pony ride.

The students mounted horses and picked their way up a steep, shrub-covered slope that would take them out of the base camp. Six mules were part of the patrol.

The animals are remarkably efficient. Mules can carry several hundred pounds and walk as much as 55 miles a day, requiring nothing more than grass and water. If required, they can survive several days without water and longer without food. They have no problem climbing to heights of more than 10,000 feet, at altitudes where

some helicopters struggle because of a lack of lift.

"This has been proven to work," said Marine Maj. Sven Jensen, operations officer for the training center, pointing to a group of men resting by their horses and mules as sunlight streamed through the trees. "This has worked for the last 3,000 years."

The Marine Corps, which takes an almost perverse pride in a Spartan lifestyle and a fondness for low-technology solutions, has offered a mule-packing course here since the 1980s. It launched the horsemanship training about three years ago after receiving requests from Army Special Forces soldiers.

Although the Pentagon is turning back to age-old battlefield techniques, it is hardly giving up on technology. In fact, it's trying to make a robotic version of the mule. The \$62 million program is called the LS3, or legged squad support system, and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency describes it as a "highly mobile, semiautonomous legged robot."

The Pentagon consulted with some of the instructors here to learn more about real mules. The instructors seem skeptical that technology can improve much on the real thing.

Tony Parkhurst, director of the horsemanship and mule packing course said, "I can buy a whole load of mules for \$60 million."

'This has worked for the last 3,000 years.'

Marine Maj. Sven Jensen

Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center operations officer

IRAQ

Pentagon: Iraqi forces stiffening resistance

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — After crumbling in the face of attacks by Islamic militants, Iraqi security forces are now increasing their resistance, according to the Defense Department.

"We're seeing indications certainly that Iraqi security forces in and around Baghdad are stiffening themselves. They're being assisted by Shia militia members, and it certainly appears as if they have the will to defend the capital," Pentagon press secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby told reporters last week.

Over the past week, fighters with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant have taken over large swaths of northern Iraq, as members of the Iraqi military fled their posts and abandoned their equipment. The rebels have now

'They're being assisted by Shia militia members, and it certainly appears as if they have the will to defend the capital.'

Rear Adm. John Kirby
Pentagon press secretary

moved within 35 miles of Baghdad, according to reports.

Leaders of ISIL have indicated that they would like to take the capital, and Kirby acknowledged that there are ISIL elements "not very far from Baghdad."

In response to calls by religious leaders and the Iraqi government, Shia militias have formed to supplement the Iraqi army after its poor performance against the militants.

"We have indications that they

are finding common cause with the Iraqi security forces in this regard," Kirby said.

Kirby called the stiffening resistance "encouraging." However, the U.S. government doesn't appear to be counting on the Iraqi forces to be able to fend off an assault on the capital by themselves.

Last weekend, the U.S. military deployed about 160 troops to beef up security at American diplomatic facilities in Baghdad.

Approximately 100 more have been staged outside Iraq as a "contingency force" that could go into Iraq if necessary, according to Kirby. This contingency force is "proficient" at airport management and security, Kirby said.

Kirby would not identify the country where the 100 troops have been staged.

In response to a question by a reporter, Kirby said that the Army periodically deploys a rotational brigade to Kuwait, and that force is "available for a range of missions."

In recent days, the Pentagon has deployed the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush, the guided-missile cruiser USS Philippine Sea, the guided-missile destroyer USS Truxtun, and the USS Mesa Verde transport with about 550 Marines and MV-22 aircraft onboard, to the Persian Gulf for a potential Iraq contingency.

Kirby said he is not aware of any other deployments of additional transport or strike aircraft to the region in recent days. He had previously said that the military has airlift assets "at the ready" in case the State Department requests an evacuation of embassy staff or other Americans.

Kirby reiterated that no decisions have been made about the potential use of military force.

"Everybody on the national security team understands the sense of urgency there in Iraq and the seriousness of the threat ... [but] it's about making measured deliberate decisions that make the most sense," Kirby said. "Believe me, everybody has noticed the speed with which ISIL has moved inside Iraq. But that doesn't mean that you rush to a decision."

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Push: Tikrit residents fleeing ahead of anticipated clashes

FROM FRONT PAGE

Helicopter gunships conducted airstrikes before dawn on insurgents who were attacking troops at a university campus on Tikrit's northern outskirts, Iraqi military spokesman Lt. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi said. There was no immediate word on casualties.

Government troops established a bridgehead on the sprawling campus early Friday after being ferried in by helicopter.

A senior security official said there were sporadic clashes around the University of Tikrit, as well as south of the city. Iraqi forces, which are moving north toward Tikrit from the shrine city of Samarra, are making slow progress, he said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief the media.

Tikrit residents reached by telephone confirmed that air raids took place at the university around dawn Saturday. They reported fighting between ISIL and Iraqi forces to the southeast as well, but said militants are still in control of the city and patrolling the streets.

Some residents described black smoke rising from a presidential palace complex located along the edge of the Tigris River after army helicopters opened fire on the compound.

They spoke on condition of anonymity out of concern for their safety.

Another Tikrit resident, Muhammad Saif al-Din, said the city has emptied out in recent days as locals flee ahead of anticipated clashes.

"Tikrit has become a ghost town because a lot of people left over the past 72 hours, fearing random aerial bombardment and possible clashes as the army advances toward the city," Saif al-Din said. "The few people who remain are afraid of possible revenge acts by Shiite militiamen

who are accompanying the army. We are peaceful civilians and we do not want to be victims of this struggle."

He said the city has been without power or water since Friday night.

The military also carried out three airstrikes on the insurgent-held city of Mosul early Saturday.

One of the air raids hit a commercial area that did not have an obvious military target, residents said.

South of Baghdad, heavy clashes between security forces and Sunni insurgents killed at least 21 troops and dozens of militants, officials said.

The fighting raged for hours near the town of Jurf al-Sakhar, some 30 miles outside the capital. The town is part of a predominantly Sunni heartland, a vast territory stretching west and north from Baghdad to the Jordanian and Syrian borders. After a dramatic ini-

'Tikrit has become a ghost town because a lot of people left over the past 72 hours, fearing ... possible clashes as the army advances toward the city.'

Muhamad Saif al-Din

Tikrit resident

ribbon that runs just south of Baghdad.

Hospital officials confirmed the casualty figures among government troops.

All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were authorized to brief the media.

The ISIL and its allies have overrun much of Iraq's Sunni heartland, a vast territory stretching west and north from Baghdad to the Jordanian and Syrian borders. After a dramatic ini-



AP photos

Smoke rises in the skyline after airstrikes by the Iraqi military in the northern city of Mosul on Saturday.

tial push, the onslaught appears to have slowed as the militants bump up against predominantly Shiite areas stretching south from Baghdad.

Iraq's large, U.S.-trained and equipped military melted away in the face of the offensive, sapping morale and public confidence in its ability to stem the militant surge — let alone claw back lost ground. If successful, the Tikrit operation could help restore a degree of faith in the security forces.

It also would provide a boost to embattled Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who is fighting for his job as many former allies drop their support and Iraqis increasingly express doubts about his ability to unify the country. Al-Maliki, however, has shown little inclination publicly to step aside and instead appears set on a third consecutive term as prime minister after his bloc won the most seats in April elections.

The United States and other world powers have pressed al-Maliki to reach out to the country's Sunni and Kurdish minorities and have called for a more inclusive government that can address longstanding grievances. Al-Maliki has widely been accused of monopolizing power and alienat-



Iraqi federal policemen patrol Baghdad's Abu Ghraib suburb.

ing Sunnis, who have long complained of being unfairly targeted by security forces.

Iraq is grappling with its worst crisis since the last U.S. troops withdrew in December 2011, raising the specter of the fragmentation of the country along sectarian and ethnic lines. The United States has watched the turmoil with a wary eye. Already, Washington has deployed 180 of 300 troops promised by President Barack Obama to assist and advise Iraqi troops.

The U.S. also has started fly-

ing armed Predator drones over Baghdad to protect American interests, a Pentagon official said Friday. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the new flights on the record.

More than 1,200 Chinese workers who were trapped in the embattled northern Iraqi city of Samarra have been evacuated to Baghdad, China's Xinhua state news agency said Saturday. It said the Chinese arrived safely at a Baghdad hotel, with the Iraqi military providing security.

IRAQ

Iraq piecing together air force to fight ISIL

By LOVEDAY MORRIS
The Washington Post

BAGHDAD — Frustrated with the pace of U.S. jet and attack helicopter deliveries, the Iraqi government has resorted to negotiating the return of decades-old planes from Iran as it desperately tries to cobble together air power to turn the tide against al-Qaida-inspired insurgents.

Iran has been "receptive" to the demands and is working on refurbishing an unspecified number of jets, Ammar Toma, a member of the Iraqi parliament's defense and security committee said Friday. Government and military officials and two other lawmakers confirmed the negotiations.

The planes are among more than 100 Iraqi jets, including Soviet-made Sukhoi bombers and MiGs, which were flown to Iran by fleeing Iraqi pilots during the 1991 Gulf War. If delivered, they would join secondhand fighters from Belarus and Russia to create a ragtag air force that Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki is hoping can help reverse insurgent gains.

Iraq is desperate for air power to strike militants from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL, and has expressed annoyance that long-awaited U.S.

contracts for F-16 fighters and Apache helicopters are yet to be fulfilled.

The United States is flying armed drones over Iraq in case the 300 military advisers it is dispatching there need protection, Rear Adm. John Kirby, the Pentagon press secretary, said Friday.

He acknowledged that the drones also could be used for airstrikes if President Barack Obama decides to take military action against ISIL targets — a possibility the White House is still contemplating.

But with the United States holding back on strikes and no jets of its own, Iraq has been forced to rely on fixed-wing propeller planes and helicopters armed with U.S.-supplied Hellfire missiles for aerial attacks.

Despite its limited air power, the Iraqi military has managed to go on the offensive against ISIL in some areas in recent days, launching a commando attack to retake Tikrit and securing the road from Baghdad to Samarra last week.

With its first U.S.-supplied F-16s not expected to arrive until fall, the planes from Iran and secondhand jets from Russia and Belarus are an unsatisfactory stopgap, officials say.

‘These planes are over 20 years old. Even when you get them, you still need training for pilots. They aren’t just taxis that one can just jump into and drive.’

Senior Iraqi military official

"These planes are over 20 years old," said a senior military officer, who declined to be named because he's not authorized to discuss the negotiations. He voiced concerns that using the outdated technology could mean a large number of civilian casualties. "Even when you get them, you still need training for pilots. They aren't just taxis that one can just jump into and drive," he added, pointing out that many of the Iraqis trained to fly them are now too old.

Iran impounded about 130 planes after fleeing Iraqi pilots sought sanctuary in the country during the first 1991 Gulf War, Iraqi officials say. The aircraft include 24 Soviet-made SU-24s, 24 French Mirage-F1s and 12 MiG-23s.

The Iranians argued that the aircraft amounted to reparations for the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq War.

Despite the sensitivities, Iran now looks likely to return them,

said Toma and one senior military official.

"Iran is worried that the state might fall, so they will help any way they can," said the military official, who declined to be named because he's not authorized to discuss the negotiations. He said regular visits by Qasem Soleimani, the commander of Iran's elite Quds force, were evidence of their firm backing.

Some of the planes have been junked, but the SU-24s are serviceable, and some of them have been absorbed into the Iranian air force and kept in working order, according to Washington Institute analyst Michael Knights.

"It could be a sneaky way of using Iranian airpower," he said. "They could keep Iranian pilots flying that stuff — all you are changing is what's painted on the wings, really."

Marzieh Afkham, spokeswoman for Iran's foreign minis-

try, denied local media reports Wednesday that 130 planes had been returned, but has not commented further.

An Iraqi government official, who declined to be named as the negotiations are not public, confirmed that the planes had been requested but would not give further details.

Kirby said U.S. military aircraft — including the drones — are conducting about 30 to 35 reconnaissance missions over Iraq daily. He declined to identify what types of drones are flying over Iraq or say where the aircraft are based. The Air Force has Predator and Reaper drones based in Turkey, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, although it is unclear which of those countries may have given permission for the U.S. military to use its territory for armed operations in Iraq. Predator and Reaper drones are primarily used for surveillance but can be armed with Hellfire missiles and other munitions.

"If we had air support, none of this would have happened," al-Maliki complained in a BBC interview Thursday. He said that Iraq was "deluded" when it signed contracts with the United States, and that secondhand planes from Russia and Belarus should arrive in the next few days.

Iraqi forces digging in to protect Baghdad's borders

By SHASHANK BENGALI
Los Angeles Times

ABU GHRAIB, Iraq — If the Sunni Muslim insurgents lurking west of Baghdad decide to rush the Iraqi capital, Ahmed Ali knows the quickest route runs past his fruit stand.

Peering at the highway over mounds of watermelon and bananas, Ali watches Iraqi army pickup trucks and personnel carriers race by — headed, he hopes, toward a battle somewhere.

"I feel relief when I see them," said Ali, a Shiite Muslim in his 50s who took refuge in Abu Ghraib this year after insurgents seized his village. "Somehow, I feel the security forces will protect me."

Facing a methodical onslaught by an al-Qaida splinter group and antigovernment militants, soldiers, police and Shiite militias are digging in around Baghdad and at strategic points outside the capital in a desperate bid to prevent the pillars of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's Shiite-dominated government from falling to the insurgents.

The scope of the militant threat to Baghdad is apparent in Abu Ghraib, a bustling town less than a half-hour's drive from the capital and best known for the prison where U.S. soldiers a decade ago took photos of Iraqi detainees being humiliated.

A few minutes south sits Bagh-

dad International Airport, one of the military's most important installations; 15 miles farther west is insurgent-held Fallujah and the vast expanse of Sunni-dominated Anbar province, much of which also has slipped from government control.

Since seizing Fallujah in January, the militants, led by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL, have crept closer to the center of Abu Ghraib, taking up positions in palm groves, planting roadside bombs and booby-trapping houses barely a mile from the army brigade headquarters.

"They have only one goal: to make Baghdad and Iraq collapse," said Brig. Gen. Ahmed Kadhim Hashim, deputy commander of the brigade in charge of Abu Ghraib.

The troops have many civilians on their side, including the volunteer fighters who heeded an order by Iraq's most influential Shiite cleric, Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani, to help government forces. More than 3,500 of them turned up to fight in Abu Ghraib alone, Hashim said.

The town was deeply scarred by Iraq's civil war and remains largely divided between Shiites, many of whom live in a central enclave ringed by concrete barriers, and Sunnis, living on the outskirts.



KHALID MOHAMMED/AP

China evacuates workers

Chinese workers who fled from Samarra, Iraq, where they were employed to construct a power plant, wait for buses to begin their journey home as they sit at a hotel in Baghdad on Saturday. China's official Xinhua news agency said that more than 1,200 Chinese workers who had been trapped in the embattled northern Iraqi city of Samarra were evacuated safely to Baghdad, with the Iraqi military providing security.

NATION

Calif. officials OK \$76M bridge suicide barrier

By TERRY COLLINS
AND SUDDHIN THANAWALA
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A teary-eyed Dana Barks was almost speechless after officials for the San Francisco's iconic Golden Gate Bridge approved a \$76 million funding package for a suicide barrier that could prevent people from jumping to their deaths.

The bridge district's board of directors voted unanimously in favor Friday for the funding of a steel suicide net. The motion for the historic vote came from board member and former bridge district director John Moylan, whose grandson, Sean Moylan, jumped off the bridge to his death earlier this month.

Seconds after the vote, the tears from many people in the standing-room-only crowd were followed by shouts of joy.

"A lot of people have done so much incredible work to get this accomplished," said Barks, of Napa, who lost his son, Donovan, to suicide on the bridge in 2008.

After the vote, Barks rose from his knees and embraced an embrace with Sup Story, of Rocklin, whose son Jacob jumped off the bridge in 2010.

"We did it!" Story said. "It's no longer the Bridge of Death anymore."

Funding sources for the suicide barrier include \$20 million from the bridge, mostly coming from toll revenue, \$49 million



ERIC RISBERG/AP

Two surfers ride a wave near Fort Point below the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.

in federal money and \$7 million from the state. Some of the money still requires additional approval.

But the bridge's board has now taken its final step in adopting the net.

"The tragedy of today is that we can't go back in time. We can't save ... the people who jumped off the bridge. But the good thing, with this vote today, we can vote in their memory," board member Janet Reilly said. "We will save many lives who have followed in their footsteps — and that's what so extraordinary about today."

The Golden Gate Bridge, with its sweep-

ing views of the Pacific Ocean and San Francisco Bay, has long been a destination for people seeking to end their lives. Since the structure opened in 1937, officials say more than 1,400 people have plunged to their deaths, including a record 46 suicides last year.

Supporters of the suicide barrier estimate that more than 1,600 have died jumping off the bridge.

Most jumpers suffer a grisly death, with massive internal injuries, broken bones and skull fractures. Some die from internal bleeding. Others drown.

Mexico fires on agents in Arizona

By ASTRID GALVAN
AND E. EDUARDO CASTILLO
The Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — Mexican law enforcement on Thursday crossed into Arizona by helicopter and fired two shots at U.S. border agents, a border patrol union leader says.

A Mexican law enforcement chopper crossed about 100 yards north into the Arizona desert, the U.S. Border Patrol said in a statement. The helicopter then fired two shots on the Tohono O'odham Indian Nation, which sits on the border. Border patrol

union leaders say the Mexicans fired at agents but that none of them were hurt.

However, Mexican authorities have denied shooting agents and say they were under attack during a mission to find smugglers on the border.

Tom Zer, director of the Arizona House of Mexican Representatives' general's investigative office, said Mexican military and federal police who were conducting an operation on a ranch in Altar, Sonora, were shot at by criminals. Mexican authorities never fired any weapons and, in fact, never crossed into the U.S. side of the border, he said.

Art del Cueto, president of the local border patrol union, said four agents were in a marked patrol vehicle when they were shot at. "They could say they didn't fire at the agents intentionally. But for them to say that they were not shot at by the United States, toward the United States Border Patrol, is a lie. They got in contact with our managers and apologized for the incident," del Cueto said.

The Mexican helicopter was 15 yards from the border agents when they came under fire, del Cueto said. He's also concerned that U.S. border officials didn't notify the next shift of border agents that there had been a shooting.

"... I think our managers within the area should have definitely informed the oncoming shift this had happened. We're always on high alert, but I think it would raise a few eyebrows over agents," del Cueto said.

Sobasti Galv, a spokesman for the Mexican Consulate in Tucson, said the office was gathering information but did not have any details yet.

Arizona Speaker of the House Andy Tobin, a Republican, said he's glad nobody was hurt, "but this incident clearly demonstrates a lack of clear policy and coordina-

FDA clears device for paraplegics

By MELISSA HEALY
Los Angeles Times

A device designed by a quadriplegic Israeli entrepreneur to increase his own mobility — and in use already to get wounded U.S. military personnel up and walking again — has won clearance from the Food and Drug Administration for broad marketing in the United States.

The ReWalk system consists of a fitted metal brace that supports the legs and part of the upper body. Its motors supply movement at the hips, knees and ankles, and its computer and power supply are housed in a backpack worn by the user.

Using a wireless remote control worn on the wrist, the user can command the ReWalk system to aid him or her in standing up, sitting down or walking. Crutches provide the user with additional stability while walking, standing and rising from a chair.

A version of the system is widely used already in rehabilitation centers across the United States. But the ReWalk system cleared by the FDA on Thursday is for use

by individuals outside of a rehab setting in their homes and communities. Its manufacturer said the system will be available immediately, with a price tag of \$69,500.

The FDA's approval specifies that the newly cleared ReWalk system is for use by paraplegics who have spinal cord injuries between the seventh thoracic vertebra and the fifth lumbar vertebra. When it is used in a rehabilitation setting, the agency said it may be used to assist people with injuries between the fourth and sixth thoracic vertebra.

ReWalk already is in wide commercial use in Europe and in Israel, where it was designed by Amit Goffier and is built by Argo Medical Technologies Inc., the research and development firm Goffier founded in 2001. Since then, Argos has expanded to open more than 50 ReWalk centers and train more than 400 ReWalkers around the world.

Two wounded soldiers and a sailor were among the disabled patients whose experiences with ReWalk prompted the FDA's clearance decision.



EDMUND SANDERS, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Radi Kaifur uses a device called ReWalk to navigate the streets of Yokneam, Israel.

Sirens, phones sound erroneous alerts in California

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — People in San Luis Obispo County in California received a series of unsettling, erroneous emergency alerts Friday as repairs were being made to a nuclear power plant's siren system, including a vague cellphone message that told them to "prepare for action."

The chain of mistaken alerts began arousing confusion and fear when a siren that's part of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant's warning system began wailing Friday afternoon for no apparent reason, county emergency services manager Ron Alsop said.

Earlier in the day, crews had upgraded the siren as part of Pacific Gas & Electric Co.'s summerlong revamp of the emergency system. To indicate there was no emergency, county officials issued an alert.

"Unbeknownst to us, with a new emergency alert system, it also triggered the new wireless alert cellphone system," Alsop said.

Across the county, people's cellphones buzzed with a special tone and a message that said there was a "civil emergency in this area" and people should "prepare for action."

The warning halted wine tasting at the

Saucelito Canyon Vineyard & Winery in San Luis Obispo, manager Katherine Taylor said. "I had 15 people here looking at their phones and asking what to do," she said.

Nisse Noble, 27, was at her online apparel company's office when she received the message. The vague warning was "unsettling," leading her to think there was a mass shooting, a nuclear accident or a criminal at large in the area, she said.

"We didn't know where we should turn or what we should prepare for," Noble said.

When county officials realized the gaffe, they issued a final message stating that there was no cause for alarm.

NATION

High court set to decide birth-control dispute

By MARK SHERMAN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court is poised to deliver its verdict in a case that weighs the religious rights of employers and the right of women to the birth control of their choice.

The court meets for a final time Monday to release decisions in its two remaining cases before the justices take off for the summer. The cases involve birth control coverage under President Barack Obama's health law and fees paid to labor unions representing government employees by workers who object to being affiliated with a union.

Two years after Chief Justice

John Roberts cast the pivotal vote that saved the health care law in the midst of Obama's campaign for re-election, the justices are considering a sliver of the law.

Employers must cover contraception for women at no extra charge among a range of preventive benefits in employee health plans. Dozens of companies, including the arts and crafts chain Hobby Lobby, claim religious objections to covering some or all contraceptives. The methods and devices at issue before the Supreme Court are those that Hobby Lobby and furniture maker Conestoga Wood Specialties Corp. say can work after conception, the emergency contraceptives

Plan B and ella, as well as intrauterine devices, which can cost up to \$1,000.

The Obama administration says insurance coverage for birth control is important to women's health and reduces the number of unwanted pregnancies, as well as abortions.

The court has never recognized a for-profit corporation's religious rights under federal law or the Constitution. But even some supporters of the administration's position said they would not be surprised if the court were to do so on Monday, perhaps limiting the right to corporations that are under tight family control.

Several justices worried at the

argument in March that such a decision would lead to religious objections to covering blood transfusions or vaccinations.

Prominent Washington lawyer Paul Smith said another important question is how the decision would apply to "laws that protect people from discrimination, particularly LGBT people."

In the Hobby Lobby case, even if the court finds such a right exists, it still has to weigh whether the government's decision to have employee health plans pay for birth control is important enough to overcome the companies' religious objections.

The other unresolved case has been hanging around since late

January, often a sign that the outcome is especially contentious.

Home health care workers in Illinois want the court to rule that public sector unions cannot collect fees from workers who aren't union members. The idea behind compulsory fees for nonmembers is that the union negotiates the contract for all workers, so they all should share in the cost of that work.

The court has been hostile to labor unions in recent years. If that trend continues Monday, the justices could confine their ruling to home health workers or they could strike a big blow against unions more generally.



ROGELIO V. SOLIS/AP

Supporters of Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., break into cheers as he is declared the winner in his primary runoff for the GOP nomination for U.S. Senate in Jackson, Miss., on Tuesday.

Miss. GOP primary win reflects new strategy on minority voting

By JESSE J. HOLLAND
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sen. Thad Cochran's GOP primary victory, thanks in part to black Mississippians who turned out to vote for him, exemplifies a new math that politicians of all persuasions may be forced to learn as this country's voting population slowly changes complexion.

Cochran's campaign courted black voters, perceiving their unhappiness with his tea party-supported opponent, Chris McDaniel, and his anti-government rhetoric and scathing criticisms of President Barack Obama. Blacks responded by turning out to help give Cochran an almost 7,000-vote win. The use of Mississippi's open primary to further their agenda showed political maturity by black voters and debunked a long-standing belief that they obediently vote Democratic and not according to their own interests.

They turned out for a primary runoff, not a Democratic candidate involved. And they voted Re-

publican even though the smart play for the Democrats would have been to usher McDaniel to victory and create a more winnable contest for Democrat Travis Childers in November.

"I think that Thad Cochran is a shot across the bow to be felt for a long time," said the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who was the first minority presidential candidate to win a statewide primary or caucus in 1984 and 1988. "You cannot win in the new South or win in national elections with all-white primaries. This is a new America today."

Tests of this assertion are coming next month in Alabama and Georgia, also Southern states with large minority populations and open primaries. The Mississippi race may be a harbinger of more strategic voting for minority voters, especially African Americans, said D'Andrea Orey, a political science professor at Jackson State University in Jackson, Miss.

"This is not a one-time situation," Orey said. "Blacks do recognize their power in the vote,

and in this particular case, blacks saw that they could actually defeat or be a strong influence ... in defeating McDaniel."

In Mississippi, which is 38 percent black and on track to become the country's first majority-black state, some black voters said they planned to support Cochran, a six-term incumbent, again in November. Others said they would keep their options open in November or vote for the Democrat, even though they considered Cochran a better choice than McDaniel in the red state.

"I just think that McDaniel did as much for the Cochran turnout in the black community as Cochran people did," said Democratic Rep. Bennie Thompson, Mississippi's sole black congressman. Agitating minority voters may soon prove politically risky anywhere in the nation: The numbers of black, Hispanic, Asian and Native American voters are growing not only in presidential election years but in off-cycle elections as well, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Election year a drag on Senate productivity

By ANDREW TAYLOR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A fear of voting has gripped Democratic leaders in the Senate, slowing the chamber's modest productivity this election season to a near halt.

With control of the Senate at risk in November, leaders are going to remarkable lengths to protect endangered Democrats from casting tough votes and to deny Republicans legislative victories in the midst of the campaign. The phobia means even bipartisan legislation to boost energy efficiency, manufacturing, sportsmen's rights and more could be scuttled.

The Senate's masters of process are finding a variety of ways to shut down debate.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., now is requiring an elusive 60-vote supermajority to deal with amendments to spending bills, instead of the usual simple majority, a step that makes it much more difficult to put politically sensitive matters into contention.

This was a flip from his approach to Obama administration nominees, when he decided most could be moved ahead with a straight majority instead of the 60 votes needed before.

Reid's principal aim in setting the supermajority rule for spending amendments was to deny archrival Sen. Mitch McConnell a win on protecting his home state coal industry from new regulations limiting carbon emissions from existing power plants. McConnell, the Senate Republican leader, faces a tough re-election in Kentucky.

This hunkering down by Democrats is at odds with the once-vibrant tradition of advancing the 12 annual agency budget bills through open debate. In the Appropriations Committee, long

accustomed to a freewheeling process, chairwoman Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., has held up action on three spending bills, apparently to head off politically difficult votes on changes to the divisive health care law as well as potential losses to Republicans on amendments such as McConnell's on the coal industry.

‘(There’s) just no question that they’re worried we’re going to win some votes so they just shut us down.’

Sen. Mike Johanns, R-Neb.

"I just don't think they want their members to have to take any hard votes between now and November," said Sen. Mike Johanns, R-Neb. And there's "just no question that they're worried we're going to win some votes so they just shut us down."

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WORLD

Russia accuses US of fueling Ukraine crisis

BY VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia's foreign minister on Saturday accused the United States of encouraging Ukraine to challenge Moscow and heavily weighing in on the European Union.

Speaking in televised remarks Saturday, Sergey Lavrov said that "our American colleagues still prefer to push the Ukrainian leadership toward a confrontational path." He added that chances for settling the Ukrainian crisis would have been higher if it depended only on Russia and Europe.

Lavrov spoke after Friday's European Union summit, which decided not to immediately impose new sanctions on Russia for destabilizing eastern Ukraine but gave the Russian government and pro-Russian insurgents there until Monday to take steps to improve the situation.

Ukraine on Friday signed a free-trade pact with the EU, the very deal that angered Russia and triggered the bloodshed and political convulsions of the past seven months that brought Russia-West relations to their lowest point since Cold War times.

In November, under pressure from Moscow, a former Ukrainian president dumped the EU pact, fueling huge protests that eventually drove him from power. Moscow responded by annexing the tiny, Russian-speaking Crimean Peninsula in March, and Russian separatists soon rose up in Ukraine's eastern provinces.

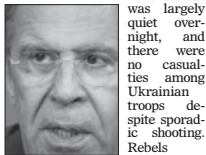
The U.S. and the EU slapped travel bans and asset freezes on members of Russian President Vladimir Putin's inner circle and threatened to impose more crippling sanctions against entire sectors of Russia's economy if the Kremlin fails to de-escalate the crisis.

The EU leaders on Friday said Russia and the rebels should take

steps to ease the violence, including releasing all captives, retreating from border checkpoints, agreeing on a way to verify the cease-fire and launching "substantial negotiations" on Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko's peace plan.

The weeklong cease-fire, which both sides have been accused of violating, expired at 10 p.m. local time, but Poroshenko quickly declared its extension until 10 p.m. local time Monday.

Ukrainian Defense Minister Mykhailo Koval was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying Saturday that the situation



Lavrov

in the east was largely quiet overnight, and there were no casualties among Ukrainian troops despite sporadic shooting. Rebels claimed that

Ukrainian troops tried to capture one of the checkpoints on the Russian border, which they control, but were rebuffed.

As part of his peace plan, Poroshenko last week also submitted a set of constitutional amendments that would give broader powers to the regions and allow local authorities to have more say on such issues as language and culture.

In an address to the nation Saturday, he voiced hope that the move would strengthen the country's unity.

Lavrov acknowledged that Russia has some leverage with the rebels, pointing at their move last week to release four observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe after weeks of captivity, but claimed that Moscow's influence is limited.



MILITANT WEBSITE/AP

Posted on a militant website on Jan. 14, this image shows fighters from the al-Qaida-linked Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant marching in Raqqa, Syria.

Syrian rebels retreat from jihadis

BY ZEINA KARAM
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — The Syrian rebels that the U.S. now wants to support are in poor shape, on the retreat from the radical al-Qaida break-away group that has swept over large parts of Iraq and Syria, with some rebels giving up the fight. It is not clear whether the new U.S. promise to arm them will make a difference. Some more hard-line Syrian fighters are bending to the winds and joining the radicals.

The Obama administration is seeking \$500 million to train and arm what it calls "moderate" factions among the rebels, a far larger project than a quiet CIA-led effort in Jordan that has been training a few hundreds fighters a month. But U.S. officials say it will take a year to get the new program fully underway. The U.S. also faces the difficult task of what constitutes a "moderate" rebel in a movement dominated by Islamist ideologies.

Opposition activists complain that after long hesitating to arm the rebellion to topple Syrian President Bashar Assad — their main goal — the United States is now enlisting them against the ISIL out of its own interests. They have long argued that the group, which aims to create a radical Islamic enclave bridging Syria and Iraq, was only able to gain such power in Syria because more moderate forces were not given international support.

"This decision is a year and a

Russia: US, EU must combat 'terrorism'

DAMASCUS, Syria — Russia's deputy foreign minister called on the United States and Europe to take "serious" steps to combat terrorism during a visit to Damascus on Saturday, warning that several Middle Eastern countries are threatened.

"Russia will not stand idle toward attempts by terrorist groups to spread terrorism in regional states," Sergei Ryabkov told reporters, apparently referring to the rapid advance of the extremist Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant across eastern Syria and northern Iraq.

Russia has been one of Syrian President Bashar Assad's

main allies since the start of an uprising against him in March 2011. Moscow has used its veto power four times at the U.N. Security Council to prevent international sanctions on Syria.

Both Russia and Assad's government have portrayed the civil war in Syria as a struggle against foreign-backed "terrorists," the word Damascus applies to all rebels fighting to end the Assad family's four-decade reign.

Nearly two hours after Ryabkov's comments, a car bomb exploded in a busy market in the rebel-held Damascus suburb of Douma, activists said. It was not immediately clear how many people were killed or wounded.

From The Associated Press

half too late," said Ahmad Ramadan, a senior member of the Western-backed Syrian National Coalition opposition group. "Had it not been for (President Barack) Obama's hesitation all along, this wouldn't be happening in Iraq today, nor would there be this proliferation of extremist factions in Syria," he added.

Meeting with Syrian opposition leader Ahmed al-Jarba in the Saudi city of Jeddah on Friday, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry made clear the priority in helping

the rebels was to fight the ISIL — with hopes that their battlefield successes in Syria could dilute their insurgency's power in Iraq.

The moderate opposition in Syria "has the ability to be a very important player in pushing back against ISIL's presence and to have them not just in Syria but also in Iraq," Kerry said. A senior State Department official traveling with Kerry later said the secretary did not mean to imply that Syrian rebels would actually cross the border to fight in Iraq.

Yemen cease-fire breached as violence flares anew in city near capital

BY AHMED AL-HAJ
The Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen — Fierce clashes erupted between rebels and tribes backed by an army unit in a northern Yemeni city close to the capital on Friday, breaching a week-old cease-fire, a Defense Ministry official said, as the country's leaders said assailants were plotting to destabilize the country.

The official said heavy weapons and artillery were being used

in the fighting in the northern city of Amran. Hawthi rebels, who belong to a branch of Shiite Islam, are fighting tribesmen from Yemen's largest tribal confederation, the Hashid, which is backed by an army unit and allied with the Muslim Brotherhood. Hawthi are backed by supporters from smaller tribes.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the press.

Mohammed Abdel Salam, the rebels' spokesman, accused

the Muslim Brotherhood's Islah party in parliament of instigating the breach in the cease-fire.

The number of casualties was not immediately clear, but over the past months, hundreds have been killed and injured in similar clashes that have spilled to northern cities where rebels accuse ultraconservative Salafis of trying to spread their ideology in Shiite strongholds.

The Hawthi waged a six-year insurgency in the north against ousted President Ali Abdullah

Saleh; it officially ended in 2010.

Meanwhile, Yemeni officials accused Saleh and his loyalists of trying to stage a "coup" and roll back the country's transition from his rule.

In a statement carried by Yemen's official news agency Saba, President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi said the country faced a "plot to abort the transitional political process" on June 11, when security forces say assailants set fire to tires across the capital some 280 times and besieged doz-

ens of trucks carrying fuel, causing a shortage. Assailants also struck power stations and grids, they added.

Electricity went out across Yemen that day, and lines of cars waiting for fuel stretched outside gas stations amid reports of scattered demonstrations by armed men.

"This is aimed at bringing the wheel of history backward and taking us to square one," Hadi said, without giving the names of those behind the alleged plot.

WORLD

Woman or machine?

New Japanese robots look creepily human

By YURI KAGEYAMA
The Associated Press

TOKYO — The new robot guides at a Tokyo museum look so eerily human and speak so smoothly they almost outdo people — almost.

Japanese robotics expert Hiroshi Ishiguro, an Osaka University professor, says they will be useful for research on how people interact with robots and on what differentiates the person from the machine.

"Making androids is about exploring what it means to be human," he told reporters Tuesday, "examining the question of what is emotion, what is awareness, what is thinking."

In a demonstration, the remote-controlled machines moved their pink lips in time to a voice-over, twitched their eyebrows, blinked and swayed their heads from side to side. They stay seated but can move their hands.

In a clear triumph, Kodomoroid read the news without stumbling once and recited complex tongue-twisters glibly.

The robot, designed with a girlish appearance, can use a variety of voices, such as a deep male voice one minute and a squeaky girly voice the next. The speech can be input by text, giving them perfect articulation, according to Ishiguro.

There were some glitches — such as the lips not moving at all while the robot spoke, or the Otonaroid announcer robot staying silent twice when asked to introduce itself.

But glitches are common with robots because they are delicate gadgetry sensitive to their environment.

Kodomoroid and the woman robot Otonaroid were joined at the demonstration by the minimally designed Telenoid, a mannequin head with pointed arms that serves as a cuddly companion.

The two life-size robots, which have silicon skin and artificial muscles, will be on display starting Wednesday, at Miraikan museum, or the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation, in Tokyo, allowing the public to interact with them extensively.

Reflecting widespread opinion, Ishiguro said Japan leads the world in playful companion robots. But he acknowledged the nation was behind the U.S. in military robots.

Developing robots for more than 20 years, Ishiguro has made a point of creating robots that approximate the human appearance, including creatures that look like him. He has sent them to give overseas lectures.

His approach differs from some robotics scientists who say human appearance is pointless, perhaps creepy, and robots can look like machines, such as taking the form of a TV screen or a portable device.

Ishiguro noted proudly how Japanese Internet company Softbank Corp. recently showed a robot named Pepper, which looks a little like C-3PO in "Star Wars," and will sell for less than \$2,000.

Pepper's arrival means robots are increasingly becoming part of everyday life in Japan.

"Robots are now becoming affordable — no different from owning a laptop," said Ishiguro.

A female-announcer robot called Otonaroid is among the latest creations from Japanese android expert Hiroshi Ishiguro.



PHOTOS BY SHIZUO KAMBAYASHI/AP

Android robot Kodomoroid speaks during a press event at the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation Miraikan in Tokyo on Tuesday.



'Making androids is about exploring what it means to be human ... examining the question of what is emotion, what is awareness, what is thinking.'

Hiroshi Ishiguro
Osaka University professor

WORLD



Percussionists for the Obini Bata ensemble, from left, Adonay D'Armas, Yilian Letamendi and Wendy Garcia practice in Old Havana, Cuba.

Below: Garcia dresses for a performance.

PHOTO BY FRANKLIN REYES/US

By ANDREA RODRIGUEZ
The Associated Press

Female drummers **BREAK BARRIERS** in Cuba percussion

It wasn't that long ago that Cuba's rich percussion scene was essentially a boys' club, dominated by men due to macho attitudes and religious tradition.

Perceived as too weak for the physical demands of drumming, and unsuitable for an instrument considered a means of communicating with the gods, women were shut out of rehearsal spaces and barred from using "bata" drums belonging to the National Folkloric Ensemble. Instructors were warned that if they taught women, it could cost them a place in a traveling tour or a major performance.

Over the years, doors slowly began opening for female drummers — just as women gradually took on greater roles in politics, academics and other areas of Cuban society. Today, experts say, the island is seeing a boom in women percussionists as the generation that first started playing in the 1990s comes into its own and inspires younger talent to follow.

"I threw myself into the unknown," said Eva Despaigne, 60, the director of Obini Bata, Cuba's first all-female bata orchestra, which takes its name from the Yoruban word for woman. "I have suffered many headaches."

Under Afro-Cuban beliefs, the two-sided bata are sacred, used for connecting with Santería spirits. Tradition dictates the drums be made only from the hides of male goats. Players must

undergo a lengthy consecration ritual. And, above all, the sacred bata are to be played only by men.

Despaigne, however, was determined to fight convention. As an Afro-Cuban folkloric dancer, Despaigne saw the drum as a means to experience her art at a deeper level.

"It is the fundamental instrument of the genre. I figured by playing it, I could broaden my development as an artist and have greater expressiveness," she said.

Despaigne patiently worked to persuade male batistas that her desire to play was not far religion, but for art. Little by little, she began to win them over.

After breaking off from the National Folkloric Ensemble in 1994, Obini Bata spent years on the margins of acceptance. With time, however, more women took up the hourglass-shaped drum and also became percussionists in other genres such as jazz and big band.

From the 1990s to today, the girls have begun studying percussion (more) and the number of those who have graduated is great," said

Mercedes Lay, a percussionist and musicologist who works with the governmental Center for Research of Cuban Music.

At a recent show in Havana, the six women who make up Obini Bata pounded infectious beats on leather-skinned drums with their carefully manicured hands and danced in colorful blouses and headscarves. The performance was part of the government-organized musical festival Cuba-disco, underscoring Obini Bata's firm arrival in the musical mainstream.



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OPINION

What's in a name?

By GEORGE F. WILL

AMANDA Blackhorse, a Navajo who successfully moved a federal agency to withdraw trademark protections from the Washington Redskins because it considers the team's name derogatory, lives on a reservation where Navajos root for the Red Mesa High School Redskins. She opposes this name; the Native Americans who picked and retain it evidently do not.

The Patent and Trademark Office acted on a 1946 law banning trademarks that "may disparage" persons. "May" gives the agency latitude to disregard evidence regarding how many people actually feel disparaged, or feel that others should feel disparaged. Blackhorse speaks of "the majority of Native American people who have spoken out on this." This would seem implausible even if a 2004 poll had not found that 90 percent of Native Americans were not offended by the Redskins' name. A 2013 AP-GFK poll showed that 79 percent of Americans of all ethnicities opposed changing it, and just 18 percent of "non-white football fans" favored changing it.

The federal agency acted in the absence of general or Native American revulsion about "Redskins," and probably because of this absence. Are the Americans who are paying attention to this controversy comfortable with government saying, in effect, that if people are not offended, they should be, so government must decide what uses of language should be allowed?

In today's regulatory state, agencies often do pretty much as they please, exercising discretion unconstrained by law.

George Washington University law professor Jonathan Turley notes that in 2004 the Federal Election Commission held that the anti-George W. Bush name "Patriot-heit 9/11" did not need to be regulated as an

"electioneering communication" but in 2008 held that the hostile "Hillary: The Movie" was such a communication. In the regulatory state, the rule of law is the rule that law barely limits regulators' discretion.

Although the death penalty clearly was not considered a "cruel and unusual" punishment when the Eighth Amendment proscription of such punishments was adopted, perhaps society's "evolving standards of decency" have brought this punishment under the proscription. Standards of decency do evolve. No sports team launched today would select the name "Redskins." Although Thomas Sowell is correct that "some people are in the business of being offended, just as Campbell is in the business of making soup," the fact that some people are professionally indignant does not mean offense may be given promiscuously to others.

The name "Redskins" is more problematic than, say, that of the Chicago Blackhawks or Cleveland Indians presumably because "Redskins" refers to skin pigmentation. People offended by this might be similarly distressed if they knew that "Oklahoma" is a compound of two Choctaw words meaning "red" and "people." Blackhorse, however, has two larger objections.

She says "someone" once told her that teams' mascots "are meant to be ridiculed," "to be toyed with," "to be pushed around and disrespected" and "have stuff thrown at them." She should supplement the opinion of that someone with information from persons more knowledgeable. But she considers "any team name that references Native Americans" an injurious "appropriation of our culture." Has an "appropriation" been committed by the University of Utah and Florida State University even though they have the approval of the respective tribes for their teams' nicknames, the Utes and Seminoles?



NICK WASS/AP

The Washington Redskins name on a building at their training facility at Redskins Park in Ashburn, Va.

William Voegeli, a senior editor of the Claremont Review of Books, writes that the kerfuffle over an NFL team's name involves serious matters. They include civility in a diverse nation, civil discourse, and "not only how we make decisions, but how we decide what needs to be decided, and who will do the deciding."

Time was, Voegeli writes, a tolerant society was one with "a mutual nonaggression pact": If your beliefs and practices offend but do not otherwise affect me, I will not interfere with them if you will reciprocate regarding my beliefs and practices. Now, however, tolerance supposedly requires compulsory acknowledgment that certain people's beliefs and practices deserve, Voegeli says, "to be honored, respected, affirmed and validated" lest they suffer irreparable injury to their sense of worth. And it requires compelling conformity for the good of the compelling.

When two Oregon bakers choose, for religious reasons, not to provide a cake for a same-sex wedding, an Oregon government official explained why tolerance meant coercing the bakers: "The goal is to rehabilitate." Tolerance required declaring the bakers' beliefs and practices intolerable. Are we going to decide whether a society can be congenial while its government is being coercive regarding wedding cakes and teams' names.

George Will is a columnist for the Washington Post.

The American military's racial slur

By SIMON WAXMAN

Resistance to the Washington Redskins team name has ebbed and flowed over the years, but thanks in part to letters from 50 senators to the team's owner, Dan Snyder, and last week's decision by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to rescind the team's trademark registration, the campaign to get rid of it has renewed urgency.

Snyder has shrugged off complaints about the name, even claiming that "redskins" is a "badge of honor." Last president Bruce Allen, protesting too much, said the name "has always been respectful of and shown reverence toward the proud legacy and traditions of Native Americans."

But momentum appears to have turned against the preservationists. The trademark decision sounds like an infringement of freedom of speech, but it also asserts a degree of pressure in any case. An advertisement opposing the name aired during the National Basketball Association Finals to great fanfare. Current and former National Football League players have criticized the name. And not surprisingly, many Indian tribes and organizations do not share Allen's interpretation. This is all to the good.

But even if the NFL and Redskins brass come to their senses and rename the team, a greater symbolic injustice would continue to afflict Indians — an injustice perpetuated not by a football club but by our federal government.

In the United States today, the names Apache, Comanche, Chinook, Lakota, Cheyenne and Kiowa apply not only to In-

dian tribes but also to military helicopters. Add in the Black Hawk, named for a leader of the Sauk tribe. Then there is the Tomahawk, a low-altitude missile, and a drone named for an Indian chief, Gray Eagle. Operation Geronimo was the end of Osama bin Laden.

Why do we name our battles and weapons after people we have vanquished? For the same reason the Washington team is the Redskins and my hometown Red Sox go to Cleveland to play the Indians and to Atlanta to play the Braves: because the myth of the worthy native adversary is more palatable than the reality — the conquered tribes of this land were not rivals but victims, cheated and impossibly outgunned.

The destruction of the Indians was asymmetric war, compounded by deviancy in the name of imperialist manifest destiny. White America sat, imprisoned, lied, swindled, preached, bought, built and voted its way to domination. Identifying our powerful weapons and victorious campaigns with those we subjugated serves to lighten the burden of our guilt. It confuses violation with a fair fight.

It is worse than denial; it is propaganda. The message carried by the word Apache emblazoned on one of history's great fighting machines is that the Americans overcame an opponent so powerful and true that we are proud to adopt its name. They tested our mettle, and we proved stronger, so don't mess with us. In whatever measure it is tribute to the dead, it is in greater measure a boost to our national sense of superiority. And this message of superior-

ity is shared not just with U.S. citizens but with those of the 14 nations whose governments buy the Apache helicopters we sell. It is shared, too, with those who hear the whir of an Apache overhead or find its guns trained on them. Noam Chomsky has clarified the moral stakes in provocative, instructive terms: "We might react differently if the Luftwaffe were to call its fighter planes 'Jew' and 'Gypsy.'"

If the native tribes did not stand a chance, this does not imply lack of resistance or of courage; regardless, it doesn't much matter in this context. Whatever courage they had, the U.S. military is not heir to it. If honor matters to the members of our armed forces, they will agree.

Perhaps the senators outraged by the Redskins name could turn their letter-writing pens on the Defense Department next. And when that's done, there is the more important step, when these senators, and their constituents, choose not only to be offended on behalf of Indians but also to be partners in improving their lives. War and forced removal have been replaced by high rates of unemployment, poverty, substance abuse, illness and disability; by inadequate housing and education; by hate crimes, police harassment, disenfranchisement and effective segregation. Being a Native American means living, on average, more than four years less than other Americans. The violence is ongoing, even if the guns are silent.

So, sure, rename the football team. But don't stop there.

Waxman is managing editor of Boston Review.

OPINION

The world could use a rulebook for drones

BY JOHN P. ABIZAID AND ROSA BROOKS

To understand why U.S. drone strikes outside traditional battlefields make so many people so uneasy, look to the past and look to the future.

Start with the past. In 1976, exiled Chilean dissident Orlando Letelier was driving to work in Washington when a car bomb planted by Chilean agents ripped through his vehicle, killing Letelier and his young, American assistant. From the viewpoint of Chile's ruling military junta, the killing was justifiable. Gen. Augusto Pinochet's regime considered itself at war with leftist insurgents and viewed Letelier as a security threat.

U.S. authorities saw things differently, of course: They condemned the bombing as an assassination. The FBI opened a murder investigation, and the Senate intelligence committee launched an inquiry into illegal foreign intelligence activities on U.S. soil.

Now, imagine the future: Suppose Russian President Vladimir Putin decided that a few drone strikes in eastern Ukraine would be just the thing to eliminate some particularly irritating critic of Russian policy.

If this happened, U.S. authorities would surely denounce the strikes, just as they denounced Letelier's killing. But Putin would surely respond by parroting the U.S. gov-

ernment's justifications for drone strikes in Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia. "First," he might say, "I can neither confirm nor deny the existence of any such Russian strikes. Second, I assure you that all Russian decisions to use lethal force comply fully with applicable law. Russia targets only terrorist combatants who pose an imminent threat to Russia, and it uses force inside other sovereign states only when those states are themselves unwilling or unable to address the threat."

The United States would naturally demand evidence that those killed were truly dangerous terrorists, but Putin could again take a page from our book. "Unfortunately," he'd respond, "we can't make public such sensitive national security information."

What could U.S. officials possibly say? They may know that they use lethal force only against those who constitute lawful targets under international law — but it's hard to convince the rest of the world that "trust us" is a good enough basis for killing thousands of people in the territory of other sovereign states.

We both have enormous respect for the men and women charged with keeping our nation safe and believe that there are many circumstances in which drone strikes are entirely appropriate. Nonetheless, we are troubled by the lack of transparency and ac-

countability surrounding U.S. use of targeted strikes far from traditional battlefields, as well as the lack of strategic clarity.

The United States' drone policies damage its credibility, undermine the rule of law and create a potentially destabilizing international precedent — one that repressive regimes around the globe will undoubtedly exploit. As lethal drones proliferate, the future imagined above is becoming all too likely.

Recent events remind us that the threat posed by terrorist organizations is very real, and U.S. drone strikes have achieved significant tactical successes in certain regions, but the scope, number and lethality of terrorist attacks worldwide suggest that these successes are not producing enduring strategic gains. On the contrary: Overreliance on targeted strikes away from so-called "hot" battlefields creates a substantial risk of backlash and reinvigorated terrorist recruiting and may create a slippery slope leading to continual or wider conflict.

In his recent speech at We St Point, President Barack Obama acknowledged many of these concerns. It is time for him to take action to address them.

The court-ordered release Monday of the legal basis for the U.S.-targeted killing of Anwar al-Awlaki, a U.S. citizen, provides the public with some useful information,

but much more is needed. The government should make public the approximate number and general location of U.S. drone strikes; the number of people known to have been killed and their organizational affiliations; and the number and identities of any civilians killed. In addition, Obama should create an independent, nonpartisan commission to review lethal drone strikes and should transfer responsibility for strikes from the CIA to the military. Finally, we believe the United States must take the lead in fostering the development of appropriate international norms for the use of lethal force outside traditional battlefields.

Current U.S. drone policies open the door to a dangerous and unstable future. Yes, states must be able to respond effectively to nontraditional threats from nontraditional actors, but whenever lethal force is used, it must also be consistent with the rule of law and fundamental human rights. In the end, U.S. security rests not only on a strong military but also its ability to offer credible leadership, consistent with our longstanding values.

John P. Abizaid, a retired Army general, was head of U.S. Central Command from 2003 to 2007. Rosa Brooks was counselor to the undersecretary of defense for policy from 2009 to 2011. They are co-chairs of the Stimson Center's Task Force on U.S. Drone Policy. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

A friendly tip for US farmers: Grow hemp, make money

BY DOUG FINE

After a 77-year break, hemp plants are growing in American soil again. Right now, in fact. If you hear farmers from South Carolina to Hawaii shouting "God bless America," the reason isn't because Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence on hemp paper (he did). Nor is it because the canvas that put the "covered" in pioneer covered wagons was made of hemp, nor that the hemp webbing in his parachute saved George H.W. Bush's life in World War II.

It's because U.S. policy is finally acknowledging that hemp can help restore our agricultural economy, play a key role in dealing with climate change and, best of all, allow American family farmers to get in on a hemp market that, just north of us in Canada, is verging on \$1 billion a year.

Hemp is a variety of cannabis — and thus a cousin of marijuana — that contains 0.3 percent or less of the psychoactive component THC. You can't get high from hemp, but starting in 1937, U.S. drug laws made cultivating it off-limits.

A provision in the 2014 farm bill signed by President Barack Obama on Feb. 7 removed hemp grown for research purposes from the Controlled Substances Act, the main federal drug law.

Not a moment too soon. American farmers have been watching as Canadian farmers clear huge profits from hemp: \$250 per acre in 2013. By comparison, South Dakota State University predicts that soy, a major crop, will net U.S. farmers \$71 per acre in 2014.

Canada's windfall has been largely due to the American demand for omega-balanced hemp-

seed oil. But hemp is also a go-to material for dozens of applications all over the world. In a Dutch factory recently, I held the stronger-tasted hemp fiber that's used in Mercedes dashboards and Ben & Jerry's Marks and Spencer department store chain used hemp fiber insulation in a new flagship outlet.

Farmers I've interviewed from Oregon to Ohio have gotten the memo. In a Kansas-abutting corner of eastern Colorado, in the town of Springfield, Ryan Loflin, 41, wants to save his family farm with hemp. "It takes half the water that wheat does," Loflin told me, scooping up a handful of drought-scarred soil so parched it evoked the Sahara, "and it produces four times the income. Hemp is going to revive farming families in the climate-change era."

From an agronomic perspective, American farmers need to start by importing dozens of hemp varieties (known as cultivars) from seed stock providers. This is vital because our own hemp seed stock, once the envy of the world, was lost to prohibition. This requires diversity and quantity.

Legally, farmers and researchers doing pilot programs in the 15 states that have their own hemp legislation now have the right to import those seeds. The point of the research authorization in the farm bill is explicitly to rebuild our seed stock. Such research is how the modern Canadian hemp industry was kick-started in 1998.

But one final hurdle has been placed in front of American hemp entrepreneurs. In Kentucky, U.S. Customs officials, at the behest of the Drug Enforcement Administration, in May seized a 286-pound shipment of Italian hemp seed bound for the state's agriculture department. After a weeklong standoff, a federal agency had to

be reminded by the federal courts that the law had changed and Kentucky's seed imports were legal.

The problem is as much an entrenched bureaucratic mind-set as the ink drying on the new federal hemp policy. DEA Administrator Michele Leonhart told a law enforcement group last month that the hoisting of a hemp flag above the U.S. Capitol last July 4 was "the low point in my career."

It should have been a high point. Hemp's economic potential is too big to ignore. When he was China's president, Hu Jintao visited that nation's hemp fiber processors in 2009 to demand that farmers cultivate 2 million acres to replace pesticide-heavy cotton. Canada funded its cultivator research for farmers, with today's huge payoff.

Even Roger Ford, a politically conservative Kentucky utility owner, told me his Patriot Bio-Energy's biofuels division would be planting hemp on coal- and tobacco-damaged soil the moment it was legal. Why? To use the fiber harvest for

clean biomass energy.

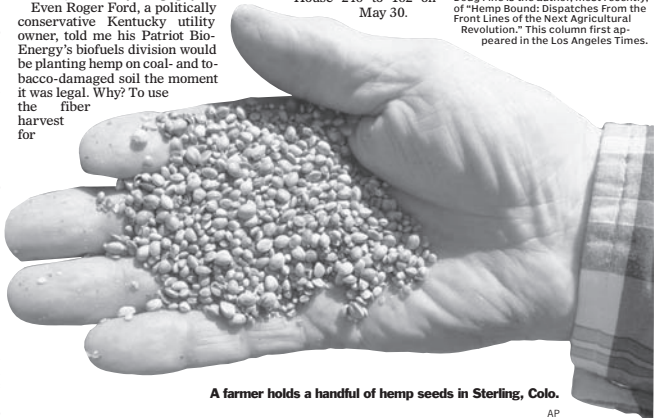
Congress knows the farm bill hemp provision is just a baby step. The real solution is the Industrial Hemp Farming Act, introduced by Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., which would allow nationwide commercial hemp cultivation. Colorado, already ahead of federal law on legalizing psychoactive cannabis, is also in front on hemp; it has a state law allowing commercial hemp cultivation. At least 1,600 acres were planted this season.

Wyden's bill should be fast-tracked. In the meantime, Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., added an amendment to a bill that controls the DEA's budget to specifically protect imported hemp seeds from seizure. It passed in the House 246 to 162 on May 30.

American farmers and investors need our support to catch up with Canada's and the rest of the world's hemp head start. Now. As Loflin put it when I toured his family's 1,200-acre Colorado spread: "I'm planting hemp to show my neighbors that small farmers have a real option as businesspeople in the digital age."

We're down to 1 percent of Americans farming; it was 30 percent when our world-leading hemp industry was stymied in 1937. The crop is more valuable today than it was then. We should be waving flags and holding parades for the farmers ready to plant the crop that Thomas Jefferson called "vastly useful and desirable." I know I'm ready. To cheer — and to plant.

Doug Fine is the author, most recently, of "Hemp Bound: Dispatches From the Front Lines of the Next Agricultural Revolution." This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.



A farmer holds a handful of hemp seeds in Sterling, Colo.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP



CLAY JACKSON, THE (DANVILLE, KY.) ADVOCATE-MESSANGER/AP

Bustin' a mutton

Kayden Dunaway, 6, falls off a sheep during the Mutton Bustin' competition at the Garrard County Fair near Lancaster, Ky., on Thursday. The maximum weight for each contestant is 55 pounds. The sheep were donated by The Bluegrass Stockyards in Stanford, Ky.

Wiccan: Council barred me from invocation

AL HUNTSVILLE — A member of the Wiccan faith said he was set to give the opening invocation at a Huntsville City Council meeting until the plan was publicized and he was asked about his faith. He was then told he was no longer invited.

When the agenda for Thursday's meeting was made public Tuesday, citizens called to voice concerns, Huntsville City Attorney Peter Joffrin told WHNT-TV.

The agenda said the invocation would be given by "Reverend Blake Kirk, Priest of the Oak, Ash And Thorn Tradition of Wicca."

Accordion allegedly used to smuggle meth

AZ NOGALES — A Mexican man is in custody for more than \$13,000 worth of methamphetamine into the U.S. in an accord.

Customs and Border Protection officers said Eloy Renteria-Ortiz, 18, was arrested Monday at the Port of Nogales after being searched at a crossing.

Officers said nearly \$13,600 worth of meth was found wrapped in black tape and hidden in the center of the accordion that Renteria-Ortiz was carrying.

The drugs and instrument were seized, and Renteria-Ortiz was turned over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations.

His hometown in Mexico wasn't released, and it wasn't immediately clear Thursday if Renteria-Ortiz has a lawyer.

THE CENSUS

\$1

The amount for which an on-campus house at Smith College in Northampton, Mass., is listed for sale. But there's a catch: The buyer must pay to have the house moved off the campus, and that is expected to cost about \$70,000. A school official told The Daily Hampshire Gazette that the 2,332-square-foot structure, built in 1860, has four bedrooms, two full baths and two fireplaces and that it is in pristine condition.



Man breaks gumball machine, is arrested

IA BURLINGTON — Burlington officers said a man who had insisted they arrest him finally gave them a reason: He broke their lobby gumball machine.

Police said officers responding to a call Wednesday night encountered the 37-year-old man at a gas station. He told them he was high and wanted to go to jail, saying he feared for his life.

The Hawk Eye said officers told him they couldn't arrest him if he hadn't committed a crime, so he tried unsuccessfully to damage a patrol cruiser.

They took him to the police station as he requested. The officers said he then broke the gumball machine. He was arrested.

Lawsuit: Police stun gun led to man's stroke

ID COEUR D'ALENE — The family of a northern Idaho man is contending he became disabled due to a stroke caused by police using a stun gun on him.

The Coeur d'Alene Press reported that the family of Marvin Ball, 64, filed a lawsuit earlier this month against Kootenai County, the city of Post Falls and others.

The family seeks an undisclosed amount in damages.

The lawsuit says police in June

2012 used a stun gun on Ball, who later had a stroke while in custody at the Kootenai County jail.

The lawsuit says Ball showed signs of having a stroke but didn't receive medical attention. It says Ball faced drug charges and a charge of solicitation of prostitution, but they were dismissed.

Man admits to burning down probation office

AR LITTLE ROCK — A Batesville man has pleaded guilty to an arson charge after he admitted burning down a state probation office in hopes of destroying his urine sample, which had tested positive for methamphetamine and was being stored in the building.

Douglas McArthur Adams III admitted Thursday that he set fire to the Batesville probation office last year because he wanted to destroy the evidence that could have led to the revocation of his probation in an unrelated case. Court papers say probation officers had collected a methamphetamine-positive urine sample from Adams three days before the fire. Fire investigators said the blaze began in a room adjacent to the refrigerator where drug-testing urine samples were stored.

The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reported that Adams faces a minimum of five years in federal prison.

Woman arrested for food stamps fraud

LA COVINGTON — State authorities said a Covington woman is accused of fraudulently obtaining \$55,000 in food stamps.

Authorities announced Thursday the arrest of Christine Kelley, 38. The sheriff's office said Kelley was arrested June 20 on a felony theft warrant. She was booked into the St. Tammany Parish jail and released on bond the same day.

NOLA.com/The Times-Picayune reported that the arrest was made after a lengthy investigation by the state Department of Children and Family Services into the food stamp benefits Kelley was receiving for her family.

Authorities said she is accused of falsifying her benefit application, stating she was divorced and not claiming her husband's income.

Man gets probation in woman's heroin death

IL PITTSFIELD — A west-ern Illinois man has been sentenced to probation after pleading guilty to a lesser charge related to a woman's 2012 heroin death.

The Quincy Herald-Whig reported that John Edgar, 26, of Kampsville, was sentenced Thursday in Pike County to 30 months of

probation. He pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter. A judge credited Edgar with roughly a year he had spent jailed.

Edgar originally was charged with drug-induced homicide for his role in the September 2012 death of Shanda Lopez, 47, of Milton. Authorities believe Edgar supplied Lopez with the heroin that killed her. Edgar has also been ordered to pay Lopez's daughter about \$5,000 in restitution.

Wild black bear sighted in suburb subdivision

OH MONTGOMERY — Ohio wildlife officials are warning people to stay away from a wild bear that was spotted last week in a suburban area of southwest Ohio.

The young black bear was last seen wandering around a subdivision in the Cincinnati suburb of Montgomery. The bear is believed to be 2 or 3 years old and weighs about 85 pounds. Officials believe it swam across the Ohio River from Kentucky and was first seen earlier in the week.

Officials told The Cincinnati Enquirer that Montgomery residents need to keep pets and children indoors and not approach the bear.

Officials don't plan to intervene unless the bear climbs into a tree or otherwise gets cornered somewhere.

From wire reports

LIFESTYLE

Digging a whole new field

Like more former servicemembers, Navy vet finds new meaning in farming

By BLAIR ANTHONY
ROBERTSON
The Sacramento Bee

Farming wasn't Vonita Murray's first choice, but after making a drastic career change, the 38-year-old Navy veteran, former office manager and longtime fitness enthusiast now believes digging in the dirt, growing food and being her own boss might just be the dream job she has always wanted.

The transition to farming for Murray happened gradually over the past several years. She eventually took stock of her life, sized up her talents, sharpened the focus on her dreams and decided she was no longer cut out for a desk job.

For several years, Murray had been an office manager and a CAD, or computer-assisted design, technician for an architecture firm. Much of her work focused on remodeling floor plans for a major fast food chain's stores. But when the economic downturn hit the architecture and design industry, Murray got laid off. She saw it as a chance to make a change in her life.

"It was the best thing that ever happened to me," she said.

Using a \$5,000 grant she received from the Farmer Veteran Coalition (farmvetco.org), an organization that helps veterans get established in farming, Murray bought some basic equipment and managed to launch her new career. She also enrolled in the first class of the California Farm Academy, a six-month farming course.

Murray knows it will take hard work and several years before she can make a comfortable living as a farmer. But she has a long-term plan and says farming — including many 12-hour days — is exactly what she was seeking.

"I've never been so tired, so broke and so happy," she said with a laugh. "For the first time in my life, I have worth and a purpose. What I do has value in people's lives."

More and more veterans are turning to farming to connect in a similar way. "We're all a family and we all try to help each other succeed," Murray said.

When Michael O'Gorman founded the Farmer Veteran Coalition in 2009, he searched throughout the U.S. and found just nine veterans interested in going into farming. By the end of that year, the number was up to 30. These days, O'Gorman and his group have helped 3,000 veterans transition into farming.

"What's really attracting veterans to agriculture is it offers a sense of purpose and a sense of mission," said O'Gorman, who has farmed for 40 years. "It's about feeding their country, offering food security and a better diet."



PHOTOS BY LEZLIE STERLING/SACRAMENTO BEE

Vonita Murray uses an innovative system called aquaponics to grow crops on her farm in Elverta, Calif.



Murray removes a hen from a roosting box while collecting eggs. Her free-range chickens lay about 10 dozen eggs a day.

O'Gorman is seeing more women get into farming and says Murray is a great role model.

"She's a growing phenomenon. About 15 percent of those who serve in the military are women, and that's about the same percentage we hear from," he said. "More and more women are going into agriculture. The military and farming are both male-dominated. The women who have taken on both of them just seem like a really exceptional group."

Those who encounter Murray are often impressed by her energy and her holistic, lead-by-

example approach to farming. Not only does she want to grow good food, she sees the work she does as a way to help people be healthy.

She also has a penchant for unorthodox and innovative approaches to growing food. Standing on a portion of the land she leases in rural Elverta, Calif., next to a caviar facility, Murray watches water stream past. It's runoff from the tanks where sturgeon are raised for their prized caviar. It's also the key to what she will grow on her new farm site.

Murray essentially harnesses the water, 3 million gallons a day and loaded with nutrients, to create an innovative style of growing food called aquaponics, which combines modern hydroponics with forward-thinking environmental awareness.

The water goes through a settling pond to separate solids from liquids, then travels through a moat and into small ponds where Murray is growing produce she sells to restaurants and to a growing number of customers at a Saturday farmers market.

"It's an excellent use of water," Murray said as she walked part of the nine acres she leases from the caviar company. In addition to the produce she is growing — squash, melons, heirloom tomatoes, mustard greens and more — Murray is raising free-range, organic chickens that lay about 10 dozen eggs a day. She hopes to soon expand to rabbits and other non-genetically-modified meat.

The outgoing and optimistic Murray has put some of her energy into tapping resources that can help get her going in farming. She obtained a \$35,000 low-interest loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She also received a grant to buy a pickup truck, which she plans to use to sell her

"What's really attracting veterans to agriculture is it offers a sense of purpose and a sense of mission. It's about feeding their country, offering food security and a better diet."

Michael O'Gorman
Farmer Veteran Coalition
(farmvetco.org)

produce in low-income areas.

Murray is not making a profit yet, but she knows it takes time. More than anything, she loves the work, the lifestyle and the mission. She sometimes feels the stress of having debt and not knowing whether her crops will thrive. But her farm is called Thrive Acres for a reason.

"You have to keep dreaming," she said with a smile. "This is just the beginning."

LIFESTYLE



PHOTOS BY SHANE KEYSER, THE KANSAS CITY STAR/MCT

A bag of popcorn at one of five custom recliners in the Maskil family home theater in Shawnee, Kan. Home theater systems are often installed with dad in mind, but turn out to be a good way for the whole family to spend time together.

A NIGHT (IN) AT THE MOVIES

With rising cinema costs, more families are investing in home theaters

BY CYNTHIA BILLHARTZ GREGORIAN
The Kansas City Star

Joe "J.C." Ganote celebrated Father's Day with his son and grandchildren at his home in Lee's Summit, Mo. But if the younger Ganotes hadn't made the cross-country trip from San Diego, you can bet that Grandpa would have logged on to Skype to watch them on the 106-inch screen in his basement.

Across town, Terry Maskil of Shawnee, Kan., often settles into one of the plush reclining theater chairs next to his sons Adam, 13, and Nicholas, 6, to watch a movie in their basement home theater, which features a 120-inch screen.

These days, home theaters are the family rooms, and money can buy you all the amenities, including surround sound, subwoofers and popcorn makers.

"Everybody isn't off in their own spot, doing their own thing. We are all together," says Amy Maskil, Terry's wife.

Sales of extra-large televisions have multiplied in recent years.

Five times as many 60-inch or larger televisions were sold between January and March than during the same time in 2011, according to the NPD Group, a consumer market research firm. Four years ago, soundbars and streaming boxes were niche devices. Now they make up \$1.4 billion in sales, and \$2.4 billion if you add in audio streaming.

And while none of this equipment is cheap, neither is going to the movies, which might explain why some families are investing in home theaters.

It would cost the Maskils \$30 in tickets for the four of them to go to a Friday or Saturday night movie. Add in a large pop-



The Maskil family gathers in their home's theater room, which features a 120-inch screen, overhead projector, seven speakers, two subwoofers, and cost about \$30,000.

corn, four large soft drinks and a large box of candy, and you're looking at an additional \$35 or more. If they went once a month, they would spend about a \$900 a year.

Instead, they spent the past 10 years saving to transform a basement room into a mini-cinema. They carefully studied pictures, then helped build it.

The theater has an Epson overhead projector, seven speakers surrounding the space and two subwoofers to handle the low rumbling sounds that make you feel like you're in the middle of the action.

The walls are covered in sectioned drapes and have sconces that look like they came from an actual theater. The leather lounge chairs have drink holders, and the second row is built on a platform, stadium-seating style.

The room outside the theater has a stocked movie candy drawer and a pop-

corn machine that looks like an old-fashioned cart. It also has another large flat-screen TV, so Terry Maskil can step out while movies are playing to see how the Kansas City Royals are doing.

The price tag for all this? About \$30,000, according to the Maskils. But it's worth it.

"As we get older and the kids are in high school, I want to be the cool house, so they and their friends hang out here and I know where they are," Amy Maskil says.

Jeff Moore, sales manager at Independence Audio & Video for 35 years, says price ranges for home theaters vary widely.

"We see folks doing things in the \$10,000 to \$50,000 range, but we have folks who go above and below that, too," he says. "It's very family-oriented. They can come together and watch a movie or sporting event, and it does add value to

your home."

Several local businesses that sell home theater systems, such as Homedia Solutions and Elevated Electronics, show pictures on their websites of rooms outfitted like cinemas.

But Chad Kelsey, co-owner of C&R Sight & Sound, says most clients just want a big-screen TV with killer surround sound systems built into the walls.

"It's very discreet now," he says. "We can hide the equipment so you operate the remote control through walls. A lot of people have little kids, and they don't want fingers in the equipment, so we have to give them bells and whistles without you seeing it."

A secret door in the wall next to Joe Ganote's screen opens to reveal a small room full of speakers and equipment. An overhead projector hangs over a couch in the middle of the room.

Ganote plans to upgrade soon to a \$12,000 projector that works better with ambient light. He is what you might call an audio/video geek.

He and his wife built their home 14 years ago and had the audio/visual installed five years ago when they finished their basement.

In addition to the 106-inch screen, there is a 46-inch flat panel hanging on a wall nearby, a 70-inch Sony TV with its own surround sound system in a nearby room, a 48-inch plasma TV with a Sonos subwoofer and speakers in the living room on the first floor and a 46-inch LED flat screen in a sitting room on the second floor.

"My wife says I went overboard," he says, smiling sheepishly. "But I knew what I wanted."

LIFESTYLE



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RICH KNECHT PHOTOGRAPHY/AP

Gayle Lape runs an agility course with her dog, Phoenix, in November. Agility trials have grown every year since being adopted by the American Kennel Club in 1994, including 48 percent in the past five years.

Dogged determination

Canines give it their all at agility trials

BY SUE MANNING
The Associated Press

The Shih Tzu is a whirl of fur on a course studded with obstacles, flying through tunnels, leaping over bars, scrambling up bridges and zigzagging through poles as its owner tears alongside, calling out commands and flashing hand signals. At the finish line, there are hugs, treats and lots of slobber.

Linda Harper of San Diego and

Learn more about agility trials
at akc.org and proplan.com



her Shih Tzu named Fame spend every weekend on the road competing in agility races, the fastest-growing dog sport in the United States and the most popular with older pet owners. Harper, 67, says the whirlwind contests help her and her dogs stay young and fit. Harper has eight minutes to

memorize the 18 to 20 obstacles before the clock starts ticking. That's far longer than Fame gets to scramble through it — the standard time for a dog to finish a course is 50 seconds.

This isn't a walk in the park — it's a heart-pounding, high-flying sprint. Owners must guide their dogs through the obstacles in a particular order, and do it as quickly as they can. There are penalties if a dog walks on top of a tunnel, enters the wrong end first or knocks down a bar.

Veterinarians say the exercise and camaraderie are beneficial for dogs, and the more popular the sport, the safer the equipment. The newest gear is lightweight, breaks away if a dog hits it and has no sharp corners. And poodles are never asked to jump higher than their legs will allow.

"Any dog that enjoys exercise and working with their owner can excel. If the dog seems to enjoy the sport and the owner is having fun, it is a good thing," said Dr. Bonnie Beaver, a professor at Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine and executive director of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists.

When handlers describe the joys of agility, they talk about the euphoria of a perfect run, being in sync with their dogs, making friends at competitions and getting to travel.

Gayle Lape, 71, of Catonsville,



Mary Callaway and her male Doberman, Bachus, share a personal moment at the starting line before their run at the Wilmington Kennel Club AKC agility trial in Bear, Del., in May.



A border collie flies over a jump in the Masters Jumpers class during a USDAA agility trial in Barto, Pa., in May.

Md., called competing with her Pembroke corgis, Phoenix and Ruddy, "a passion, an obsession." She says she's "so happy I am still able to do this. I am enjoying the ride and the run."

As Lape and her dogs have aged, they have changed the way they work. She sometimes teaches her dogs to ignore her while she takes shortcuts.

The American Kennel Club surveyed competitors last year, and 50 percent said they were over 51 years old. Of those, about 20 percent said they were over 60. To attract young people to the sport, entry fees are sometimes waived for handlers under 18.

The club is the largest of nine U.S. groups sponsoring agility trials. Purina Pro Plan's Incredible Dog Challenge televises many of events and helps introduce newcomers to the sport.

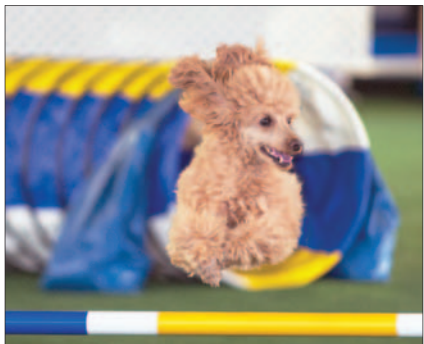
The number of agility participants has grown every year since

it was adopted by the American Kennel Club in 1994, and it's up 48 percent in the past five years, said Carrie DeYoung, the club's director of agility. To a lesser extent, there has been growth in other dog sports, too, including dock diving, where dogs jump for height or distance into water; Frisbee, both distance and free-style catching; and herding.

Lape and Harper enjoy winning, but say their dogs only care about pleasing them.

"It is very unlikely that they (dogs) care about winning," said Beaver, the veterinarian. "Owners may think they are working harder in competition, but it is actually the owner who is working harder and the dog is responding to the owner's cues."

No one gets into agility for money, DeYoung said. Even in major contests, top prizes rarely exceed \$1,000, she said.



A miniature poodle competes on the dog walk in the Starters Standard class during a USDAA agility trial in Barto, Pa., on June 1.

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CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

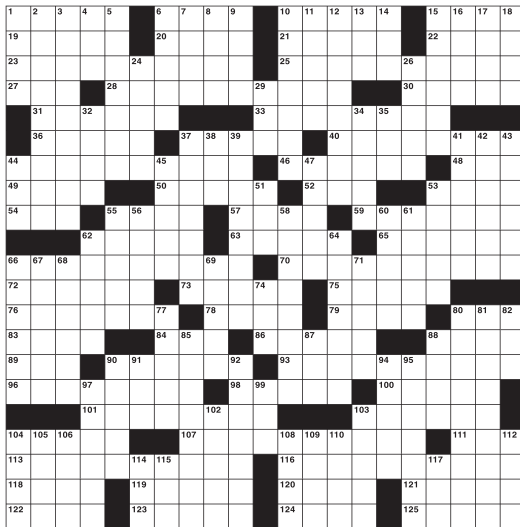
DIME STORE

BY ELIZABETH C. GORSKI/EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Letter-shaped opening in a machine shop
- 6 Sticky stuff
- 10 Mature
- 15 Not playing with a full deck
- 19 Goonlike
- 20 River that drains the western Pyrenees
- 21 Hersey's "A Bell for ..."
- 22 "House of Frankenstein" director
- 23 2014, for Doublemint gum
- 25 Mexican president of the early 2000s
- 27 Triangle part
- 28 Tyler Perry to Katy Perry, e.g.
- 30 Churning, as the stomach
- 31 Draw (from)
- 33 Kitchenette cooker
- 36 Happy refrain
- 37 One with home protection?
- 40 Middle-of-the-road
- 44 Like mother-of-pearl
- 46 When repeated, White Rabbit's cry
- 48 Nonalcoholic brew
- 49 ... souci (carefree)
- 50 White-crested ducks
- 52 Game in a forest
- 53 Former political diva.
- 54 Car ad fig.
- 55 Country whose name is an anagram of another country's capital
- 57 Part of i.o.u.
- 59 Extra wager
- 62 Took for booking
- 63 Podiatrist's concern
- 65 Southern university whose newspaper is The Hullabaloo
- 66 Several days ago, say
- 70 Bugs that technically are misnamed
- 72 Burn up
- 73 Butler of book or film
- 75 Prepares to be shot
- 76 Suggest
- 78 "Dies ..."
- 79 In
- 80 ...pitch
- 83 Mountains have developed over them
- 84 Soul: Fr.
- 86 "Foreign Affairs" author Alison
- 88 Whoop-de-do
- 89 Blood-typing letters
- 90 Bully
- 93 Agent's cut
- 96 Total value of the symbols created by the special crossings in this puzzle
- 98 Doctor's orders
- 100 ... has no age"; Picasso
- 101 Sand, maybe
- 103 Fast crowd
- 104 Floored
- 107 Fleeced or quinoa, e.g.
- 111 Opus
- 113 Something square to eat?
- 116 Defendant's cry
- 118 Mythological subject of a Michelangelo painting
- 119 Hair extension
- 120 Of Peter O'Toole's eight Oscar nominations, how many he won
- 121 Scruffs
- 122 Broadway singer Linda
- 123 Venomous snake
- 124 Cries (for)
- 125 One for the books
- 126 Percocet, for one
- 13 Suffix with ethyl
- 14 Partisan leader?
- 15 More profound
- 16 Pounds' sounds
- 17 Moving ice
- 18 Message with an emoji, maybe
- 24 Bright stars
- 26 "Così Fan ..."
- 29 Summer weather stat.
- 32 Dangerous units
- 34 Blabs, say
- 35 Crawler on an M.C. Escher
- 36 Mobius strip
- 37 It may be a credit to you
- 38 Mobile-to-Birmingham dir.
- 39 Nervously excited
- 41 "Things are not looking good"
- 42 Untroubled
- 43 Samples
- 44 System of beliefs
- 45 Town on the south shore of Long Island
- 47 Reagan attorney general
- 51 "... man walks into a bar ..."
- 53 Youngest-ever French Open winner, 1990
- 55 Fruit with a flat pit
- 56 Pot collection
- 58 Articles in a paper
- 60 Formal reply to "Who's there?"
- 61 Snookered?
- 62 Harvests
- 64 Two by two

DOWN

- 1 Dangerous part of an alligator
- 2 Where many tickets are distributed
- 3 Not going away
- 4 German direction
- 5 Agatha Christie mystery setting
- 6 Type
- 7 Theater award
- 8 Kind of fixation
- 9 Film legend Negri
- 10 Entire item with crimped edges
- 11 Chowderhead



- 66 Shampoo instruction
- 67 Cloth
- 68 Like some patches
- 69 Starts
- 71 Actress who co-starred in "The Lincoln Lawyer"
- 74 Chess champ Mikhail
- 77 Keep an ... the street
- 80 Hillary Clinton's domain, once: Abbr.
- 81 Summer hair product
- 82 Some freight cargo
- 85 Times table?
- 87 Abbr. in many an officer's title
- 88 N.B.A. coach Jackson and others
- 90 Muscle builders
- 91 Year in Madrid
- 92 One who's taking inventory?
- 94 "Keep your ... the prize!"
- 95 Half-baked, maybe
- 97 "Honest!"
- 99 Make bigger: Abbr.
- 102 Emit, as a big sigh
- 103 Craving
- 104 Not lifting a finger
- 105 Craving
- 106 Right hand
- 108 Funny Fey
- 109 Certain co. plans
- 110 Informant
- 112 Wee, informally
- 114 Pan Am rival
- 115 T-shirt size: Abbr.
- 117 Actor McKellen

GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

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VIDEO GAMES

WARNER BROS./AP

"Mortal Kombat X"



HARD-CORE GORE GALORE

Bloody, violent titles dominate this year's Electronic Entertainment Expo

BY DERRIK J. LANG

The Associated Press

Game makers at this year's Electronic Entertainment Expo went for the jugular.

That's not just a metaphor about the competitive spirit of the video game industry at its annual trade show June 10-12. There were also actual depictions of throats being ripped out — as well as spleens, spines,

hearts and testicles — in some of the goriest scenes ever shown off at E3.

Developers of such titles as "Bloodborne," "Let It Die," "Mortal Kombat X," "Dead Island 2" and "Dying Light" weren't shy about harnessing the high-powered graphical capabilities of the latest generation of consoles to portray more realistic decapitations, dismemberments and other grisliness.

Why the apparent boost in high-definition gross-outs?

"I think in the early years of a console launch, you have the so-called early adopters and hard-core fan base," said Shawn Layden, CEO of Sony Computer Entertainment America, which launched the PlayStation 4 last November. "I think they look for the latest gaming experience that takes them to another level from where they've been before, and a lot of our publishing partners are pursuing the new, most impactful experience for gamers."

The parade of carnage kicked off June 10 at Microsoft's presentation when the creators of "Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare" demonstrated a level in which a character's arm is ripped off while attempting to sabotage an enemy aircraft in South Korea. Michael Condrey, co-founder of "Advanced Warfare" developer Sledgehammer Games, later maintained the amputation wasn't only intended to shock.

"We know that war is terrifying," said Condrey. "The military advisers that we work with talk about the horrors of war. 'Call of Duty' isn't just about gratuitous violence. The scene that you saw

in Seoul at the Microsoft press conference, that's an impactful story moment. The loss of the arm is really part of the narrative. We showed that for a particularly storytelling reason."

Other slaughter on display at E3 included a first-person perspective of a decapitation in a demo of the French Revolution-set "Assassin's Creed: Unity" and several bone-crushing new moves in "Mortal Kombat X," like extreme close-ups of characters snapping their opponents' spines and manhandling their genitals.

"It seems, as time goes on, video games continue to become more violent, realistic and graphic," said Brad J. Bushman, a communication and psychology professor at Ohio State University. "This is a disturbing trend. Unfortunately, I see no signs that it will stop. The research evidence clearly indicates that violent video games increase aggression in players, and can make them numb to the pain and suffering of others."

But it wasn't merely blood and guts on display at E3 this year. The virtual horse that players will mount in the open-world ac-

tion sequel "Metal Gear Solid V: The Phantom Pain" has been programmed to spontaneously defecate. And in a creepy abandoned mental institution from the Victorian-era thriller "The Order: 1886," there's not just blood smeared across the walls.

Game makers defend that gore aids the narrative, yet many believe a little goes a long way.

"For us, it's more impactful if it's done tastefully," said "The Order" game director Dana Jan. "If you just throw blood all over the place, it's meaningless. ... We have to look at what we think is disturbing or scary and figure out how to do that masterfully without going too over the top."

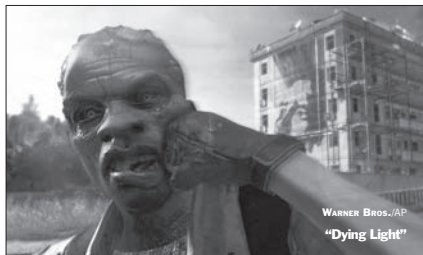
E3 wasn't completely consumed with bloodshed. This year's show featured a plethora of non-bloody, artsy games that attracted an unprecedented amount of attention. Still, the biggest games at E3 are usually the most hard-core.

While violence has long been part of gaming history, and these gory titles are destined to be restricted to adult buyers by the industry's rating board, such footage received visceral reactions



UNISOURCE/AP

"Far Cry 4"



WARNER BROS./AP

"Dying Light"

from even the most seasoned gamers this year.

"E3 2014, taken as a whole, doesn't feel as obsessed with violence as past shows," wrote Chris Plante, co-founder at the gaming site Polygon. That was before he cut the show's most graphic

violence into a one-minute video. "The supercut is dense with blood, organs and unrecognizable viscera," Plante wrote. "It's strange how these things can wash over you but make an impact when taken together. These conferences can be a bit desensitizing."

VIDEO GAMES

Not everyone diving headfirst into VR at E3

By DERRIK J. LANG
The Associated Press

While the lines to try virtual reality have been among the longest at the Electronic Entertainment Expo, the buzzed-about technology isn't necessarily a dominating force at the game industry's annual gathering, not when there are dozens of other queues — and immediate financial prospects — for traditional games.

Sony and Oculus VR, the start-up that launched the latest VR obsession two years ago and was purchased by Facebook earlier this year for \$2 billion, haven't announced plans to bring their respective headsets to market. That hasn't stopped the companies from touting VR with demonstrations in front of and behind closed doors at E3.

There are only a handful of VR creations from smaller developers on display at E3, such as "Words With Friends" co-creator Paul Bettner's cartoony platformer "Lucky's Tale," indie developer Piotr Iwanicki's time-

bending shooter "Superhot" and former Microsoft creative director Adam Orth's space odyssey "Adrift."

"I've always wanted to work in VR," Orth said. "From the very first moment I had the idea for this game, I said it's gonna be in VR. What surprised me the most were the emotions that I feel from actually being in the world. You're able to have these moments where the player goes, 'Oh, wow!' They're not manufactured at all.'"

Richard Marks, the senior director of research and development at Sony Computer Entertainment America, has been showing off the latest demos for Sony's prototype Project Morpheus headset, including a street luge game that simulates careening down a traffic-filled roadway as players lie on a beanbag in the real world.

"I think retailers are still struggling to wrap their minds around it," said Marks, who unveiled Morpheus at the Game Developers Conference in March. "E3 is just a different place. The developers at GDC were all excited to



JAE C. HONG/AP

A show attendee tries Sony's prototype Project Morpheus virtual reality headset at the Electronic Entertainment Expo in Los Angeles on June 10.

make stuff for it. It's so new. By next year, people will have more time to think about its commercial viability."

Sony's rivals remain less optimistic about the technology, despite the strides that Oculus and the PlayStation maker have made with sharpness and latency in their headsets.

Phil Spencer, head of Microsoft's Xbox division, and Reggie Fils-Aime, president at Nintendo of America, voiced concerns about the potential of VR following their E3 briefings. Microsoft and Nintendo, which infamously released the failed Virtual Boy headset in 1995, have yet to unveil

their own takes on VR.

"For us, it's all about fun gameplay," said Fils-Aime. "That's what we want. We want a fun, compelling experience. Right now, the technology isn't quite there yet, in our view. Certainly, it's something we're looking at. We look at a wide range of technologies. When it's there and enables a fun experience, we'll be there, too."

Publishers like Ubisoft and Electronic Arts have acknowledged that they're tinkering with VR behind the scenes, but their showy E3 presentations and staggering booths inside the Los Angeles Convention Center this year

haven't been strictly dedicated to games intended for screens that won't be attached to gamers' noggin.

Patrick Soderlund, executive vice president at EA Studios, thinks it's only a matter of time.

"We're deep into VR," he noted. "All you have to do is to put the Oculus or Morpheus headset onto your head and realize that VR is now finally at the point where it's going to be viable. We can now do the things — and more — from 'The Lawnmower Man,' which came out 20 years ago. It has to work. I can't imagine it not working."



NINTENDO/AP

Splatter enemies and claim your turf as the ink-spewing, squid-like characters called Inklings in "Splatoon," a third-person action shooter game from Nintendo.



2K GAMES/AP

Four hunters face off against a single, player-controlled monster in adrenaline-pumping 4-on-1 matches in the co-op first-person shooter "Evolve."

E3 offers more ways to have fun with more than just one

By LOU KESTEN
The Associated Press

Multiplayer action has been part of video games going back to "Pong," and ever since home consoles went online, few major games are released without some way to compete or cooperate with friends.

But online play has become predictable, too often setting for some variation of death match or capture-the-flag.

This year, more online games are finding new ways to encourage teamwork.

Here are five games from this year's Electronic Entertainment Expo that prom-

ise something different when it comes to cooperative titles:

"Evolve" (2K Games) pits four players against one. Sounds unfair, but the four teammates are mere humans sent to track down and slay a massive monster. In the E3 demo, it's a kraken who can fly and shoot lightning bolts, and it evolves into an even more dangerous beast as it gobbles up helpless wildlife. The hunters are no dummies, though, and the climactic battles are exhausting and exhilarating.

"Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six: Siege" (Ubisoft) matches a five-man SWAT team against five terrorists who are holding a

hostage in a suburban home. Can the good guys break through the bad guys' defenses and rescue the innocent civilian? It's more like a high-stakes chess match than a bang-bang shoot-'em-up.

"Battlefield Hardline" (Electronic Arts) takes the long-running war series into the urban jungle, with cops and robbers replacing the soldiers. The demo plays like an interactive version of the movie "Heat," with a gang of 16 thieves trying to flee a heist as 16 cops chase them.

"Splatoon" (Nintendo) is a more whimsical take on the online shooter. Two teams of four are armed with paint guns, and the

goal is to fill the arena with more of your color. Players can also turn into squids, who can fly to wherever their teammates are and hide in areas that match their color. It's all the fun of territorial combat without the gory head shots.

"Just Dance Now" (Ubisoft) brings the popular rhythm franchise to smartphones. Instead of requiring a motion-detecting game console like the Wii U, it uses your phone's accelerometer to determine if you're moving in time to the music. Ubisoft says there's no limit on how many dancers can sync up the app and join in, so it could be the ultimate flash-mob generator.

ENTERTAINMENT



FEELING LUCKY

Clint Eastwood finds harmony directing movie 'Jersey Boys'

TODD WILLIAMSON, INVISION/AP

By JAKE COYLE
The Associated Press

Amid the swirl of an early 1960s party scene in Clint Eastwood's latest, an adaptation of "Jersey Boys," the hit Broadway musical about Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, a television screen flashes an unexpected face: young Clint, himself, in black-and-white.

The period-appropriate shot from the TV Western "Rawhide" condenses in a moment the almost unfathomable breadth of Eastwood's career: fresh-faced cowboy to steadfast Oscar-winning director. Does it feel like a lifetime ago to Eastwood?

"Several lifetimes ago," chuckles the 84-year-old director. "Seeing myself in 1959 or '60 or '61 or whenever that episode was done, it was kind of like: Wow. I've traveled a long road since then."

That road — from Sergio Leone's spaghetti Westerns to Eastwood's own "Unforgiven," from "Make my day" to "Get off my lawn" — has made an unlikely detour down the New Jersey Turnpike. "Jersey Boys" — Eastwood's 12th film as director since turning 70 — only adds to what's by now one of the most remarkable late chapters of any filmmaker. How has he done it?

"I just never let the old man in," said Eastwood in a recent interview. "I was always looking for new things to do. I rightfully or wrongly always thought I could do anything."

Such an attitude explains many of his accomplishments. Who else would have thought a tragic story about a female boxer ("Million Dollar Baby") could be such a success? Who else would have come to Iwo Jima to make the World War II drama "Flags of Our Fathers" and, out of curiosity and empathy, opted to also make a film ("Letters from Iwo Jima") about the other side of the battlefield?

And who would have expected the man — "a tall, chiseled piece of lumber, a totem pole with feet" as James Wolcott called him — mythologized as both The Man With No Name and Dirty Harry — would be taken by the story of the guys behind "Big Girls Don't Cry?"

"The whole secret in life in any profession, regardless of whether it's entertainment or anything else, is just being interested," Eastwood says. "Are you interested in life? Are you interested in what's going on? Are you interested in new kinds of music?"

Eastwood, a piano player and jazz fan, has long been known for his passion for music. He made a film about Charlie Park-

er ("Bird"), sung in "Paint Your Wagon" and "Gran Torino," produced a documentary on Thelonious Monk ("Straight No Chaser") and has composed most of his scores over the past decade. But the falset-to-rich pop confessions of Valli (played by John Lloyd Young, who originated the role on Broadway) and the Four Seasons would seem a higher register than Eastwood's natural pitch.

"So many times you'd look off to the wings or even between shots and see him standing there trying to figure it out for himself, going (in a high voice) "Oooooo," says Michael Lomenda, who plays the Four Seasons' Nick Massi in the film.

Though the "Jersey Boys" sensation on Broadway immediately brought interest from Hollywood, earlier adaptation attempts flat-lined before Eastwood revived it with Warner Bros.

"I couldn't understand quite why after

nine years on Broadway, somebody didn't

want to do it," Eastwood says.

Eastwood favored a faithful adaptation written by the musical's writers, Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice, and cast veterans of the Broadway and touring productions over more famous options.

Erich Bergen, who plays songwriter Bob Gaudio, and Lomenda both come from

touring shows. Vincent Piazza of HBO's "Boardwalk Empire" was the lone outsider. "We knew there was no chance in hell it would be turned into fluff," Young says of hearing that Eastwood would direct "Jersey Boys."

Instead, Eastwood's film has more melancholy than your average musical, and gravitates toward the group's tumultuous offstage personal lives. Eastwood's famously efficient style of filmmaking — usually just one or two takes, always on time and under budget — was an education for the actors, most of them unseasoned in moviemaking.

"His fearlessness is somehow contagious," Piazza says. "The harmony that you walk into and the space he creates for you as an actor is a rare, rare thing."

Eastwood recently finished shooting the Navy SEAL drama "American Sniper" with Bradley Cooper, which he calls "a love story and a military story about a guy who's very talented at shooting people." It's two films in one year for Eastwood in what he notes is his 60th year in movies.

"It's fashionable to pigeonhole everybody," he says. "You're 60, you're a senior. At 60, I felt like I was about 40. At 40, I felt like I was about 18. It's just all mental attitude."

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Sponsorship of gay pride parades up

By BRADY MCCOMBS

The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — In between muscular men in Speedos gyrating to thumping dance music and drag queens decked out in formal gowns, Salt Lake City's gay pride parade also featured a few, more conventional participants: Some of America's most well-known companies.

From Starbucks to eBay to Macy's, the increasing visibility of corporations at the parade in Utah and at others across the country in recent years comes as same-sex marriage bans fall in the courts and polls show greater public acceptance of gay marriage.

In that climate, companies are finding that the benefits of sponsorship outweigh the risks of staying away, giving them a chance to make a statement in support of diversity and use it to help recruit and retain top talent who want to work for businesses that support LGBT rights.

"We understand there are

people who might have different points of view on that," said spokesman Michael Palese at Chrysler, which has been a sponsor of the Motor City Pride Festival and Parade in Detroit, Michigan, for years and became a primary backer this spring.

"We respect their point of view as long as they respect ours," Palese said.

This weekend, some of the largest gay pride events are scheduled, including ones in New York, San Francisco and Chicago. They come just days after a federal appeals court ruled for the first time that gay couples have a constitutional right to marry.

At many companies, support for pride parades and festivals is being fueled by internal Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender councils who are given small budgets and freedom to spend that money where they choose.

The continued transformation of the parades from small, closeted, sexually daring protests to family-friendly, mainstream cel-

ebrations has been on full display this summer as new companies join businesses that have been supporting the cause for years.

In Salt Lake City, American Express workers carried giant letters that spelled, "Love=Love," the theme of the parade. JPMorgan Chase marchers wore T-shirts that said, "just be you." A Budweiser's semitrailer festooned with rainbow flags drove through the parade, honking its horns.

At the 43rd Motor City Pride Festival in Detroit, banners were adorned with corporate logos, including those of General Motors, Ford, Comerica bank, Kroger and Whole Foods Market. Delta Air Lines employees handed out day packs, luggage tags and the same cookies that passengers get.

"They're recognizing that there's a loyal, reliable customer base," said Gregory Varnum of Equality Michigan, a group leading the fight for same-sex marriage rights in the state. "Advertising to the LGBT community is working. They wouldn't keep

coming if it wasn't working."

The purchasing power of the U.S. gay and lesbian population was estimated to be \$830 billion last year, up from \$610 billion in 2005, according to a study by Wittek-Com Communications, a marketing firm specializing in the gay marketplace.

Some years ago, Ford resisted a pushback from the American Family Association against its support of gay groups, Varnum said.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (June 30)	\$1.3978
Dollar buys (June 30)	€0.7154
British pound (June 30)	\$1.75
Japanese yen (June 30)	99.00
South Korean won (June 30)	989.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.7021/0.5875
Canada (dollar)	1.0652
China (Yuan)	6.2194
Denmark (Krone)	5.4637
Euro (Pound)	1.7506
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.3645/0.7328
Hungary (Forint)	227.08
Israel (Shekel)	3.4271
Japan (Yen)	101.40
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2819
Norway (Krone)	6.1283
Philippines (Peso)	43.77
Poland (Zloty)	3.00
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7505
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2497
South Korea (Won)	1,014.78
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9812
Taiwan (Dollar)	32.46
Turkey (New Lira)	1.2447

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., currency rates for the United Kingdom, which has your local military banking facility, Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to the pound, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

MARKET WATCH

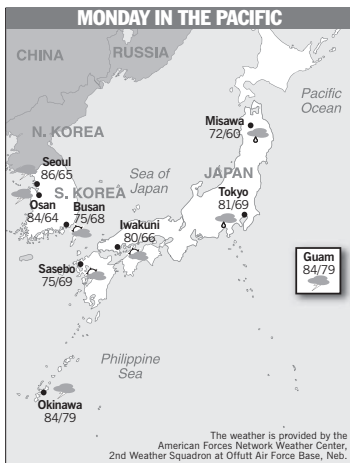
June 27, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	5,711
	16,851.84
Nasdaq Composite	18,888
	4,397.93
Standard & Poor's 500	3,741
	1,960.96
Russell 2000	8,791
	1,189.50

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
3-month bill	0.03
Federal funds market rate	0.03
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	3.37

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Monday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Able, Tex	94	75	Cldy	Chatanooga	89	68	Cldy	Fort Wayne	86	70	Rain	Louisville	86	72	Rain
Akron, Ohio	86	69	Rain	Cheyenne	86	51	Cldy	Fresno	100	64	Cldy	Lubbock	97	72	Cldy
Albany, N.Y.	88	52	Cldy	Chicago	87	71	Rain	Goodland	94	61	Cldy	Macon	94	71	PCldy
Albuquerque	97	65	Cldy	Cincinnati	87	69	Cldy	Grand Junction	93	61	Cldy	Madison	84	69	Cldy
Allentown, Pa.	84	59	PCldy	Cleveland	86	72	Rain	Grand Rapids	85	71	Rain	Medford	85	53	Cldy
Amarillo	97	66	Cldy	Colorado Springs	93	55	PCldy	Great Falls	69	48	Cldy	Memphis	91	73	Cldy
Anchorage	68	52	Cldy	Columbia, S.C.	91	72	Cldy	Green Bay	82	70	Rain	Miami Beach	90	75	PCldy
Asheville	81	63	PCldy	Columbus, Ga.	94	72	Cldy	Greensboro, N.C.	85	68	Cldy	Midland-Odessa	98	75	PCldy
Atlanta	90	71	PCldy	Concord, N.H.	86	70	Rain	Hartford	84	61	Cldy	Minneapolis	79	65	Rain
Atlantic City	82	60	PCldy	Corpus Christi	94	79	Cldy	Harrisburg	71	49	PCldy	Missoula	68	46	Cldy
Austin	93	71	Cldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	93	77	Cldy	Honolulu	81	71	Cldy	Mpls-St Paul	86	68	Cldy
Baltimore	84	64	Cldy	Dayton	85	71	Cldy	Houston	92	78	Cldy	Mobile	71	47	Cldy
Baton Rouge	91	75	Cldy	Denver	92	76	Cldy	Huntsville	88	69	Cldy	Montgomery	95	73	PCldy
Bilings	77	53	Cldy	Des Moines	84	57	PCldy	Indianapolis	83	70	Rain	New Orleans	91	78	Cldy
Birmingham	91	71	PCldy	El Paso	89	70	Cldy	Jacksonville	92	73	Cldy	New York City	82	64	Cldy
Blacksburg	78	56	Cldy	El Paso	89	70	Cldy	Lafayette	92	74	Cldy	Newark	83	65	Cldy
Boise	90	51	Cldy	El Paso	89	70	Cldy	Lakeland	92	74	Cldy	Norfolk, Va.	84	70	PCldy
Boston	85	63	Cldy	El Paso	89	70	Cldy	Lakeland	92	74	Cldy	North Platte	92	59	PCldy
Bridgeport	85	61	Cldy	El Paso	89	70	Cldy	Lakeland	92	74	Cldy	Oaklahoma City	82	73	PCldy
Brownsville	92	80	PCldy	El Paso	89	70	Cldy	Lakeland	92	74	Cldy	Omaha	90	68	PCldy
Buffalo	87	69	Cldy	El Paso	89	70	Cldy	Lakeland	92	74	Cldy	Orlando	95	76	Cldy
Burlington, Vt.	88	68	Cldy	El Paso	89	70	Cldy	Lakeland	92	74	Cldy	Paducah	86	72	Cldy
Caribou, Maine	87	57	Cldy	El Paso	89	70	Cldy	Lakeland	92	74	Cldy	Pandora	86	72	Cldy
Casper	81	48	Cldy	El Paso	89	70	Cldy	Lakeland	92	74	Cldy	San Jose	83	55	Cldy
Charleston, S.C.	90	74	Cldy	El Paso	89	70	Cldy	Lakeland	92	74	Cldy	San Jose	83	55	Cldy
Charleston, W.Va.	85	68	Rain	El Paso	89	70	Cldy	Lakeland	92	74	Cldy	San Jose	83	55	Cldy
Charlotte, N.C.	86	71	Cldy	El Paso	89	70	Cldy	Lakeland	92	74	Cldy	San Jose	83	55	Cldy

National temperature extremes
Hi: Fri., 112, Death Valley, Calif.
Lo: Fri., 27, Charleston, Nev.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Harvick holds on to win Nationwide race

The Associated Press

SPARTA, Ky. — Kevin Harvick finally got the shot at Kyle Busch that he had been waiting for.

Harvick overtook Busch on the final restart and held off Brad Keselowski to win the NASCAR Nationwide Series race Friday night at Kentucky Speedway.

After failing to pass Busch's Toyota on an earlier restart, Harvick succeeded with another chance on Lap 196. His Chevy gained enough space from Keselowski, who rallied from 17th following a pass-through penalty with 50 laps left to finish second in a Ford.

"I felt like I could do it," Harvick said about the pass. "We were lucky to have that last caution. ... I don't know if he got tight or loose, but my car went through there like on a rail and off it went down the backstretch. It was a good restart."

Busch, the Truck Series winner Thursday night, led 38 laps in finishing third.

"Just not enough there to hold Kevin off," Busch said. "He just flat drove right by me on the restart."

Harvick's victory was the fifth of the season for JR Motorsports, co-owned by Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Kelly Earnhardt-Miller with Hendrick Motorsports power. It was somewhat bittersweet, as Regan Smith's late accident left him 28th and allowed Elliott Sadler to take a four-point lead over rookie Chase Elliott (12th), another JR Motorsports driver, in the season standings. Smith is eight points back in third.

On balance the night ended well as Harvick salvaged a job week at the track.

"Kevin did an awesome job," Earnhardt said. "He didn't have the best car for most of the race, but they definitely improved the speed toward the end of the race."

Harvick led twice for 14 laps. He has two series victories this season and 42 in 309 career starts. He also won at the track in



JAMES CRISP/AP

Kevin Harvick hoists the trophy Friday after winning the NASCAR Nationwide series race at Kentucky Speedway in Sparta, Ky.

2001.

His triumph was surprising only because the race seemed to belong to Keselowski before his penalty gave Busch an opening that he wasn't going to relinquish. But as the laps wound down, Harvick remained close enough to Busch to still have a chance and his persistence finally paid off.

Before the pit road speeded penalty, Keselowski seemed headed for a second straight victory at the track in leading 13th laps. He settled for his seventh top-10 in as many Nationwide

starts at Kentucky and third top-three in his last four.

On the penalty, Keselowski said, "I did put us behind with that, but you still have to give credit to Kevin at the end there. He drove by and took the lead, so he was really good."

Paul Menard was fourth.

Woods misses cut at Congressional

BETHESDA, Md. — Tiger Woods missed a 36-hole cut for only the 10th time on the PGA

Tour as he showed signs of rust from three months out of competition, shooting a 75 on Friday to miss the cut at the Quicken Loans National by four strokes.

Right when he was poised to make a run, Woods made four straight bogeys on the back nine at Congressional.

He had back surgery to alleviate a pinched nerve on March 31 and had aimed to return for the British Open next month. Instead, he played the Quicken Loans National because he felt strong enough, and because it benefits his foundation.

Marc Leishman of Australia holed out from 127 yards on the par-5 ninth hole for a birdie on his way to a 5-under 66 and a four-way share of the lead going into the weekend.

Oliver Goss, another Aussie who is making his second pro start, had a bogey-free 66 and joined Leishman at 6-under 136 along with Ricky Barnes (69) and Patrick Reed (68), who already has won twice this year.

Woods was 13 shots behind at 7-over 148.

In other golf news:

■ Michelle Wie shot a bogey-free 5-under 66 on Friday in her first round since winning the U.S. Women's Open last weekend at Pinehurst, leaving her a stroke behind leader Alena Sharp at the NW Arkansas Championship in Rogers, Ark.

Wie played the back nine in 4-under 31 at Pinnacle Country Club on Friday.

Sharp, the Canadian ranked 234th in the world, had only 27 putts in her opening 65.

Mexico's Alejandra Llaneza matched Wie with a bogey-free 66.

■ Joe Durant, David Frost and Doug Garwood sprinted to the early lead at the Senior Players Championship, shooting 6-under 64 on Thursday at defenseless Fox Chapel.

Still drying out after days of steady rain, the par-70 layout in suburban Pittsburgh offered little

resistance. Frost and Garwood breezed through their rounds without making a bogey, and Durant offset his lone bogey with seven birdies.

Bernhard Langer, Corey Pavin, Larry Mize, Steve Pate, Olin Browne, Brad Bryant, Peter Fowler and Wes Short Jr. shot 65. Colin Montgomerie, the Senior PGA winner last month, opened with a 5-under 30 on the front nine before fading to a 69.

Suarez tells FIFA bite was not deliberate

RIO DE JANEIRO — Luis Suarez told FIFA's disciplinary panel that he did not deliberately bite Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini at the World Cup.

The Uruguay striker's defense that he lost balance and fell on his opponent will now be presented to FIFA's appeal panel, after his national federation notified FIFA late Friday it would challenge the nine-match, four-month ban.

"In no way it happened how you have described, as a bite or intent to bite," Suarez wrote in Spanish in a letter dated June 25.

The player's defense is in paragraph 6 of FIFA's disciplinary committee ruling, which has been seen by The Associated Press.

"After the impact ... I lost my balance, making my body unstable and falling on top of my opponent," Suarez wrote in his submission to the panel which met Wednesday, one day after Uruguay beat Italy 1-0 in a decisive group-stage match.

"At that moment I hit my face against the player leaving a small bruise on my cheek and a strong pain in my teeth," Suarez said.

However, the seven-man panel which met on Wednesday evening dismissed the argument.

The bite was "deliberate, intentional and without provocation," the ruling stated in paragraph No. 26 of the panel's conclusions.

Suarez was banned for nine Uruguay matches and four months from all football.

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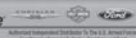


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WIMBLEDON/NHL DRAFT



BEN CURTIS/AP

Spain's Rafael Nadal plays a return to Kazakhstan's Mikhail Kukushkin during their men's singles match Saturday at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships in Wimbledon. Nadal won 6-7 (4), 6-1, 6-1, 6-1.

Nadal battles back, wins in four sets on rainy day

By DENNIS PASSA
The Associated Press

LONDON — Same start, same finish, for Rafael Nadal on a rainy Saturday at Wimbledon. Nadal once again lost the first set of a match here this year but came back to win the next three, beating Mikhail Kukushkin of Kazakhstan 6-7 (4), 6-1, 6-1, 6-1 to reach the fourth round.

Maria Sharapova won the last 11 games to reach the fourth round with a 6-3, 6-0 victory over 44th-ranked Alison Riske of the United States.

Sharapova, the 2004 Wimbledon champion, got broken in the first game and fell behind 3-1 before overwhelming her opponent.

The match match was played after Nadal's match, with the roof closed on Centre Court.

Sharapova, who won the French Open earlier this month, lost in the second round and the second round last year.

Under the closed roof on Centre Court, while play everywhere else was suspended due to the inclement weather, Nadal turned the match around by winning eight consecutive games and 14 of 15.

When the match ended, Nadal threw his wristbands to the crowd, giving one of them to a group of vocal supporters dressed in yellow and sporting Spanish flags.

He then looked up to the Royal Box and gave a thumbs-up to David Beckham, who was standing and applauding.

It marks the first time Nadal

Scoreboard

Saturday
At The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club
London
Purse: \$42.5 million (Grand Slam)
Surface: Grass-Outdoor
Singles
Men
Third Round
Rafael Nadal (2), Spain, def. Mikhail Kukushkin, Kazakhstan, 7-6 (4), 6-1, 6-1, 6-1.
Women
Third Round
Maria Sharapova (5), Russia, def. Alison Riske, United States, 6-3, 6-0.

is into the second week at the All England Club since he was the runner-up in 2011. He lost in the first round last year and the second round in 2012.

In his first-round match this year, Nadal lost the opening set to Martin Kizsan of Slovakia. In the second round he did the same to Lukas Rosol, the Czech player who beat him in five sets here in 2012.

But he has rallied to win all three matches despite the early setback.

"I finished all the matches playing better than (how) I started, and that's always very positive," Nadal said.

"At the beginning he was playing really long, no mistakes, very aggressive," Nadal added. "And I had a few mistakes ... I made a few unforced errors with that second serve. In the tiebreak, I didn't serve my best."

Once play began, including top-seeded Serena Williams against

Alize Cornet of France on Court 1, there was only about 15 minutes of action before rain began falling again and the tarps were pulled over the grass.

Williams and Cornet are 1-1, 40-40 in their match.

Organizers postponed more than 30 doubles and junior matches, but said there was a chance the weather would improve later in the day.

Those already postponed included doubles matches involving top-seeded Bob and Mike Bryan and Serena and Venus Williams.

Sunday is a scheduled off-day at Wimbledon, the only Grand Slam tournament that takes a break midway through.

Kukushkin, who lost in the first round in both his previous appearances at Wimbledon, started his match against two-time champion Nadal by belting the ball all around the court, and had 17 winners in the first set to Nadal's 11.

With Kukushkin holding three set points at 6-3 in the tiebreaker, Nadal got one back with his second ace of the tiebreaker. But Kukushkin took the first set when Nadal's backhand floated long.

Nadal won more total points in the first set, 43-41, but still found himself down early in the match.

He is feeling confident going into the fourth round.

"I am very happy to be in the second week again," he said. "Playing well, good speed, good tactics on court every day. Fighting for every ball and trying to find the right solutions during the game."

Panthers use No. 1 pick to nab Ekblad

By DAN GELSTON
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Aaron Ekblad felt confident at No. 1, ready to move from the top of the draft straight to the NHL.

"I can step into the NHL next year," he said.

The Florida Panthers sure hope he'll be ready in a hurry to become part of a promising nucleus they expect to lead them back to the playoffs.

Without a clear No. 1 on the board, general manager Dale Tallon was open to trading the pick on Friday night. In the end, he decided to take the 18-year-old from Belle River, Ontario, with the first selection at the Wells Fargo Center.

Ekblad, a 6-foot-4 and 214-pound defenseman who played for Barrie in the Ontario Hockey League, is the first blueliner to go No. 1 since St. Louis took Erik Johnson in 2006.

"That is the burden of expectation. I chase it," Ekblad said. "I want that burden of expectation. I want that urge for motivation and I want to succeed under that."

The NHL will finish the draft with rounds two through seven on Saturday.

The Panthers had a top-three pick in the NHL Draft for the fourth time in the past five years.

The first three — defenseman Erik Gudbranson (in 2010), wing Jonathan Huberdeau (2011) and center Aleksander Barkov (2013) — all played significant roles last season. Florida also won the draft lottery in 2002 and 2003, but traded away those picks.

"I'm going to be learning from some great players, some young guys who have just stepped in, some older players who have had storied careers," Ekblad said.

Ekblad was the OHL's most outstanding defenseman last season, ranking first among defensemen with 23 goals and tying for fifth with 53 points. He also served as Barrie's captain.

The Sabres selected center Sam Reinhart with the second overall pick. The Edmonton Oilers selected center Leon Draisaitl

NHL scoreboard

First round

Friday
At Wells Fargo Center
Philadelphia

1. Florida, Aaron Ekblad, D. Barrie (OHL).
2. Buffalo, Sam Reinhart, C. Kootenay (WHL).
3. Edmonton, Leon Draisaitl, C. Prince Albert (WHL).
4. Calgary, Sam Bennett, C. Kingston (OHL).
5. N.Y. Islanders, Michael Dal Colle, LW, Oshawa (OHL).
6. Vancouver, Jake Virtanen, RW, Calgary (OHL).
7. Carolina, Haydn Fleury, D, Red Deer (WHL).
8. Toronto, William Nylander, C/RW, Modo (Sweden).
9. Winnipeg, Nikolaj Ehlers, LW, Halifax (OMJHL).
10. Anaheim (from Ottawa), Nick Ritchie, LW, Peterborough (OHL).
11. Nashville, Kevin Fiala, LW, HV 71 Jr. (Sweden).
12. Arizona, Brendan Perini, LW, Niagara (OHL).
13. Washington, Jakob Vrana, LW, Linköping (Sweden).
14. Dallas, Julius Honka, D, Swift Current (WHL).
15. Detroit, Dylan Larkin, C, USA Under-19 (USHL).
16. Columbus, Sonny Milano, LW, USA Under-18 (USHL).
17. Philadelphia, Travis Sanheim, D, Calgary (WHL).
18. Minnesota, Alex Tuch, RW, USA Under-18 (USHL).
19. Tampa Bay, Anthony Deangelo, D, Sarnia (OHL).
20. Chicago (from San Jose), Nick Schmatz, C, Green Bay (USHL).
21. St. Louis, Robert Fabri, C, Guelph (OHL).
22. Pittsburgh, Kasperi Kapanen, RW, Kalpa (Finland).
23. Colorado, Connor Bleckley, C, Red Deer (WHL).
24. Vancouver (from Anaheim), Jared McCann, C, Saugus Ste. Marie (OHL).
25. Boston, David Pastrnak, RW, Soderster (Sweden).
26. Montreal, Nikita Scherbak, RW, Saskatoon (WHL).
27. San Jose (from Chicago), Nikolaj Goldobin, RW, Sarnia (OHL).
28. N.Y. Islanders (from Tampa Bay via N.Y. Rangers), Joshua Ho-Sang, C, Windsor (OHL).
29. Los Angeles, Adrian Kempe, LW, Modo (Sweden).
30. New Jersey, John Quenneville, C, Brunen (WHL).

Rounds 2 through 7 were Saturday.

at No. 3, Calgary took center Sam Bennett fourth and the New York Islanders picked forward Michael Dal Colle fifth. Vancouver selected forward Jake Virtanen with the sixth pick, Carolina took defenseman Haydn Fleury seventh, Toronto selected forward William Nylander eighth, Winnipeg picked forward Nikolaj Ehlers ninth and Anaheim completed the top 10 with forward Nick Ritchie.



MATT SLOCUM/AP

Aaron Ekblad pulls on a Florida Panthers sweater after being chosen first overall Friday at the NHL Draft in Philadelphia.

MLB

Statistics

American League

TEAM BATTING									
	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	Avg	OPS	Slugging	2B
Detroit	2629	353	728	92	325	.264	.738	.448	27
Baltimore	2752	323	728	92	325	.264	.738	.448	27
Kansas City	2712	328	710	86	310	.262	.738	.448	27
Toronto	2807	389	734	107	370	.261	.738	.448	27
Los Angeles	2730	376	716	88	358	.261	.738	.448	27
Cleveland	2651	331	691	86	308	.260	.738	.448	27
Cleveland	2752	352	699	73	336	.256	.738	.448	27
New York	2784	370	708	83	330	.256	.738	.448	27
New York	2678	317	680	66	296	.254	.738	.448	27
Tampa Bay	2746	337	684	78	312	.252	.738	.448	27
Tampa Bay	2781	301	685	59	288	.246	.738	.448	27
Minnesota	2663	352	651	60	312	.244	.738	.448	27
Minnesota	2729	328	651	60	310	.244	.738	.448	27
Boston	2732	301	660	59	285	.242	.738	.448	27
Houston	2696	303	631	84	294	.244	.738	.448	27

INDIVIDUAL BATTING

	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	Avg	OPS	Slugging	2B
Altuve Hou	325	40	111	2	26	.342	.738	.448	27
V-Martinez Det	425	40	122	9	25	.282	.738	.448	27
B-Revere Tex	289	39	81	9	41	.325	.738	.448	27
Brantley Cle	289	53	93	12	52	.322	.738	.448	27
McBarrera Det	293	46	94	13	64	.321	.738	.448	27
Cano Sea	294	39	94	4	43	.320	.738	.448	27
Rout Sea	291	53	88	18	59	.316	.738	.448	27
Kruger Det	290	54	88	19	56	.316	.738	.448	27
Bautista Tor	272	54	83	15	49	.305	.738	.448	27
McBarrera Tor	328	103	111	42	305	.342	.738	.448	27
Rios Tex	302	34	92	3	34	.305	.738	.448	27
A-Jones Bal	326	68	109	14	47	.302	.738	.448	27
K-Suzuki Min	322	20	62	2	32	.301	.738	.448	27
Makakis Bal	311	36	97	6	28	.293	.738	.448	27
Alfonse CWS	314	32	92	8	28	.293	.738	.448	27
N Cruz Bal	298	48	86	25	66	.289	.738	.448	27
Brantley Cle	298	48	86	25	66	.289	.738	.448	27
Asencio Car	278	37	80	2	24	.288	.738	.448	27
Asencio Car	278	37	80	2	24	.288	.738	.448	27
Asencio Car	278	37	80	2	24	.288	.738	.448	27
Gardner NY	287	49	83	7	29	.287	.738	.448	27
J-Hardy Bal	272	38	78	1	19	.287	.738	.448	27
Elisburg NY	293	49	83	3	26	.286	.738	.448	27
Loney TB	291	38	85	4	39	.285	.738	.448	27
Aybar LAA	286	38	83	8	30	.284	.738	.448	27
Eaton CWS	244	37	69	2	22	.283	.738	.448	27
J-Breux CWS	264	42	74	6	28	.280	.738	.448	27
B-Butler KC	286	32	80	2	22	.280	.738	.448	27
Bourne Cle	260	34	72	2	19	.277	.738	.448	27
Encarnacion Tor	289	44	80	9	25	.275	.738	.448	27
A-Gordon KC	307	44	80	9	25	.275	.738	.448	27
H-Hendrix LAA	286	34	79	2	22	.274	.738	.448	27
D-Navarro Tor	237	19	65	5	34	.274	.738	.448	27
Napoli Bos	285	39	78	12	25	.274	.738	.448	27
Seager Sea	285	39	78	12	25	.274	.738	.448	27
Cespedes Oak	294	40	86	14	55	.272	.738	.448	27
Jeter NY	273	27	74	2	17	.271	.738	.448	27
L-Martin Tex	251	36	68	3	20	.271	.738	.448	27
Mauer Min	293	40	86	14	55	.270	.738	.448	27
Fowler Hou	285	43	76	6	24	.270	.738	.448	27
Andrus Tex	386	44	82	38	28	.268	.738	.448	27
Y-Gomes Cle	234	30	65	8	27	.267	.738	.448	27
Longoria TB	318	44	85	10	37	.267	.738	.448	27
Castellanos Det	252	23	62	3	26	.266	.738	.448	27
Aoki KC	262	36	72	6	28	.266	.738	.448	27
Moss Oak	270	37	71	18	57	.263	.738	.448	27
Reyes Tor	271	44	6	23	26	.262	.738	.448	27
Pedroia Bos	317	43	77	27	32	.262	.738	.448	27
Joyce TB	220	26	57	29	25	.259	.738	.448	27
Pujols LAA	305	44	79	10	47	.259	.738	.448	27
Tor-Hunter Det	242	31	62	9	37	.256	.738	.448	27
Boggs Bos	284	42	72	18	49	.254	.738	.448	27
Ortiz Bos	264	30	67	7	29	.254	.738	.448	27
Choo Tex	280	40	76	7	29	.253	.738	.448	27
Pierzynski Bos	232	18	56	3	22	.252	.738	.448	27
Hosmer KC	325	35	81	4	35	.249	.738	.448	27
Donaldson Oak	287	35	79	10	34	.249	.738	.448	27
A-Jackson Det	327	32	64	3	22	.249	.738	.448	27
A-Jackson Det	327	32	64	3	22	.249	.738	.448	27
Dav-Murphy Cle	251	27	62	5	38	.247	.738	.448	27
Infante KC	232	26	58	15	38	.247	.738	.448	27
Jo-Joey Min	240	30	68	12	34	.246	.738	.448	27
Yescobar TB	252	13	64	4	22	.244	.738	.448	27
Roberts NY	258	35	63	12	24	.244	.738	.448	27
Larrie Tor	262	37	62	13	28	.244	.738	.448	27
Viciedo CWS	283	69	24	24	24	.244	.738	.448	27
Springer Hou	236	35	57	15	40	.242	.738	.448	27
Callaspo Oak	232	26	56	3	24	.241	.738	.448	27
Alfonse CWS	249	39	38	24	38	.241	.738	.448	27
Brooks NY	225	29	53	3	16	.236	.738	.448	27
Alfonse CWS	225	29	53	3	16	.236	.738	.448	27
DMonguoz Hou	229	39	69	11	37	.232	.738	.448	27
ADumm CWS	226	28	52	12	33	.230	.738	.448	27

McCann NY	251	27	57	5	9	.267	.738	.448	27
De-Aza CWS	238	27	53	5	9	.253	.738	.448	27
Kastro Hou	244	24	54	3	24	.251	.738	.448	27
Ackley Sea	236	30	52	4	27	.250	.738	.448	27
Davis Bal	225	35	50	5	21	.248	.738	.448	27
Lowrie Oak	275	38	60	4	27	.248	.738	.448	27
BMiller Sea	229	29	48	7	22	.240	.738	.448	27
Bradley Jr Bos	235	31	49	1	24	.209	.738	.448	27
CSantana Cle	245	33	51	12	31	.208	.738	.448	27
Swisher Cle	227	20	45	5	25	.198	.738	.448	27
Carter Hou	337	68	116	20	71	.244	.738	.448	27

TEAM PITCHING

	ERA	IP	H	BB	SO	SH	SV
Oakland	3.16	626	254	216	602	7	17
Seattle	3.25	615	257	228	612	5	23
Kansas City	3.71	686	293	250	571	5	24
Boston	3.81	717	307	234	639	4	19
Tampa Bay	3.87	688	316	251	685	10	14
Baltimore	3.88	696	307	259	530	7	23
Los Angeles	3.90	620	307	219	672	6	25
New York	4.00	611	307	223	595	4	21
Detroit	4.06	697	324	251	683	10	14
Houston	4.09	721	330	279	591	10	24
Cleveland	4.15	706	325	271	685	10	14
Minnesota	4.39	725	338	212	479	6	21
Chicago	4.40	726	351	302	558	0	17
Texas	4.60	776	366	264	570	13	16

INDIVIDUAL PITCHING

	IP	H	BB	SO	W	L	ERA
Tanaka NY	110	85	17	119	11	2	2.11
P-Hernandez Sea	120	95	19	128	9	2	2.24
Buehrle Tor	107	104	28	62	10	4	2.52
Darvish Tex	96	82	36	118	7	4	2.62
Kazmir KC	93	78	27	108	8	2	2.62
Richards LAA	101	75	38	99	8	2	2.76
Greene KC	104	78	38	98	8	2	2.76
Gray Oak	99	83	34	86	7	3	2.91
Chenhou Oak	104	88	36	83	8	5	2.91
Kluber Cle	111	108	28	122	7	5	3.09
Lester Bos	106	101	27	109	8	7	3.14
Young Sea	81	71	37	47	4	3	3.15
Ventura KC	84	80	25	73	5	3	3.20
Archer TB	85	87	36	78	6	3	3.24
Weaver LAA	111	93	33	86	8	6	3.33
Hughes Min	85	98	9	82	8	3	3.34
Porcello Det	98	92	24	62	10	4	3.41
Lackey Bos	107	107	21	93	8	5	3.45
Vargas KC	112	115	26	74	3	5	3.53
Cosart Hou	95	87	37	62	8	5	3.60
Wright Bal	107	107	21	93	8	5	3.45
Price TB	124	121	14	144	6	7	3.63
Quintana CWS	98	100	29	83	4	3	3.69
Wilson LAA	98	85	40	87	6	3	3.70
Scherzer Det	104	100	31	119	9	3	3.71
Ellis Sea	99	83	34	85	3	3	3.74
Guthrie KC	106	102	25	64	5	4	3.75
Hendricks KC	112	120	24	67	8	3	3.79
W-Allen Bal	89	97	14	63	7	2	3.84
Milone Oak	83	83	23	57	6	6	3.89
Gibson Min	88	77	27	67	4	6	3.92
Hutchinson Tor	92	88	29	79	5	6	4.00
W-Allen Bal	89	97	14	63	7	2	3.84
Tillman Bal	90	90	40	62	7	4	4.18
Kuroda NY	104	100	43	88	6	5	4.24
Johnson KC	99	96	39	65	7	6	4.26
Johnson KC	99	96	39	65	7	6	4.26
Verlander Det	111	122	43	85	6	7	4.80
Peavy Bos	99	106	38	74	7	8	4.83
Masteron Cle	93	93	50	85	4	5	5.03
Correia Min	90						

MLB

Nunu, Yankees on target versus Red Sox

New York takes first game of series with rival

By HOWIE RUMBERG
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — After losing his way in two horrid starts, Vidal Nunu was right on target against the Boston Red Sox.

Nunu rebounded nicely from losses to Baltimore and Oakland to pitch two-hit ball into the sixth inning Friday night, Kelly Johnson and Brett Gardner hit consecutive homers, and the New York Yankees beat Boston 6-0 in the opener of a series between struggling powers.

"He really answered the bell tonight," Yankees catcher Brian McCann said. "He came out and established the strike zone, established what he wanted to do and got big outs after big outs."

McCann added a two-run homer for New York, which has won six of the eight meetings with Boston this season.

In his first at-bat as a 40-year-old, Derek Jeter fisted a single to right field with one out in the first. His birthday was on Thursday, the Yankees' final day off before playing 17 straight going into the All-Star break.

Jeter went to third on Jacoby Ellsbury's double and scored on Mark Teixeira's sacrifice fly off Brandon Workman (1-1) for the early lead. The Yankees captain



JULIE JACOBSON/AP

Yankees right fielder Ichiro Suzuki rolls on the ground after making a diving catch on a ball hit by the Red Sox's Stephen Drew on Friday.

also singled in the fourth for hit No. 3,590 and went 2-for-4 in New York's second straight win following four losses.

The Red Sox have been playing even worse, scoring three runs or fewer for the 11th time in 13 games and losing for the sixth time in eight games. Fourth in the rugged AL East, Boston trails the third-place Yankees by six

games.

"Again, the base hit with the guy in scoring position has been elusive," manager John Farrell said of the Red Sox, who were 0-for-4 with runners in scoring position.

New York manager Joe Girardi could have singled the struggling Nuno (2-4) and given the ball to rookie ace Masahiro Tanaka be-

cause of the extra day of rest but, in a feisty pregame Q&A with media, Girardi insisted he was interested in protecting his entire staff, not just the Japanese sensation.

Nuno rewarded Girardi with 5½ impressive innings after he gave up a total of 13 runs in 9½ innings in losses to the A's and Orioles. He yielded a leadoff single to Jonny Gomes in the second

and a one-out double in the third to Brock Holt. Nuno then retired 10 straight before walking David Ortiz, his last batter.

"I've had confidence in him but we're in a situation where these are the five guys that we have," Girardi said. "He's pitched some good games for us. ... He seems to always bounce back and give us a good outing."

Roundup

Castro's solo shot gives Astros win over Detroit

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Jason Castro hit a solo homer in the 11th inning to send Houston to a 4-3 victory and snap Detroit's seven-game winning streak.

Castro launched a pitch from Blaine Hardy (0-1) into the seats in right field with one out.

The Tigers tied it when Eugenio Suarez scored on an error in the eighth inning. Jake Buchanan (1-1) pitched a perfect 11th for his first major league win.

Jose Altuve had four hits, an RBI and two steals, including one of home, for the Astros. It was the MLB-leading 33rd multi-hit game this season for Altuve, who leads baseball with 111 hits. He also leads the American League with 32 stolen bases.

Reds 6, Giants 2: Billy Hamilton and Jay Bruce drove in two runs apiece to power visiting Cincinnati.

Johnny Cueto (8-5) pitched a three-hitтер over 8½ innings and the Reds won their third straight and sixth of seven overall.

Cueto walked two and struck out three, allowing both runs and raising his majors-leading ERA from 1.86 to 1.88.

Aroldis Chapman got the final two outs for his 16th save in 17 chances.

The NL West-leading Giants' once commanding 9½ game lead has dwindled to two after losing for the 10th time in 12 home games.



PAT SULLIVAN/AP

The Astros' Jason Castro wipes shaving cream from his face after hitting a walk-off home run in the 11th inning to give his team a 4-3 win over the Detroit Tigers on Friday in Houston.

Rays 5-1, Orioles 2-4: Nelson Cruz and Nick Hundley homered to back a commanding performance by starter Chris Tillman and host Baltimore split a doubleheader with Tampa Bay.

In the opener, rookie Alex Colome gave up two hits over 3½ innings and Brandon Guyer hit three doubles to lift Tampa Bay to a victory.

Tillman (7-4) gave up one run and four hits over eight innings in the nightcap to earn his first win in seven home starts this season. He was 0-4 with a 2.78 ERA.

Rangers 5, Twins 4: Adrian Beltre homered, Shin-Soo Choo had three hits in his return to the leadoff spot and host Texas snapped its longest losing streak in nearly nine years.

Nick Tepesch (3-3) allowed only three singles over 7½ scoreless innings for the Rangers, who entered the series opener mired in an eight-game losing streak for the first time since August 2005.

White Sox 5, Blue Jays 4: Jose Abreu hit two solo home runs, Alexei Ramirez added a two-run blast and visiting Chicago survived a shaky ninth inning to win for the second time in nine games.

Cardinals 3, Dodgers 1: Jonny Peralta hit a tiebreaking two-run double and Yadier Molina homered off visiting St. Louis.

Braves 4, Phillies 2: Freddie Freeman homered, doubled and drove in all four of

visiting Atlanta's runs to back Julio Teheran's strong pitching.

Cubs 7, Nationals 2: Light-hitting catcher John Baker had three hits, a walk and four RBIs, and Chicago starter Jason Hammel again mastered visiting Washington.

Athletics 9, Marlins 5: Coco Crisp scored the go-ahead run in the ninth inning on a replay reversal, and visiting Oakland bounced back after blowing a four-run lead.

Pirates 3, Mets 2 (11): Josh Harrison doubled home the winning run with two outs in the bottom of the 11th inning and host Pittsburgh moved two games above .500 for the first time since April 10.

Royals 8, Angels 6: Omar Infante capped a seven-run inning with his first career grand slam, and host Kansas City won on a rough night for starting pitchers.

Brewers 3, Rockies 2: Ryan Braun was hit by a pitch in the seventh inning that scored a run and had an RBI single in the ninth that scored the game-winner for host Milwaukee.

Mariners 3, Indians 2: Endy Chavez homered for the first time in more than a year and Chris Young and five relievers held visiting Cleveland in check.

Diamondbacks 2, Padres 1: Arizona's Brandon McCarthy went seven innings and won for just the second time this season for visiting Arizona.

WORLD CUP



RYAN GARZA, DETROIT FREE PRESS/AP

Soccer fans holding cutouts of United States soccer player Clint Dempsey watch a televised broadcast of the World Cup match between the U.S. and Germany on Thursday at Cadillac Square in Detroit.

Young: Soccer youth-driven sport in US

FROM BACK PAGE

Merritt Paulson, who owns the MLS Portland Timbers franchise that regularly sells out its 21,000-seat stadium, calls the burgeoning group of 20-something soccer fans — many having taken their high school passion into recreational adult leagues — the “on-demand generation.”

“They want what they want, when they want it and how they want it,” Paulson said. “It’s that shorter attention span. The fact that soccer games are two hours, start to finish, win, lose or draw, with very condensed action, fits very well into the psychographics of those folks.”

In the U.S., soccer is a youth-driven sport; about 70 percent of “core” soccer players — those who play 26 or more times a year — are ages 6-17, according to the most recent numbers from the Sports and Fitness Industry Association.

These days, instead of leaving the game after high school, that age group is graduating into the most vocal segment of fans.

Of the 3.1 million tweets about the U.S. vs. Ghana game earlier this month, 53 percent of them came from people 18-34, according to Nielsen Social. And 69 percent of people checking in on their Facebook accounts from host cities in Brazil were in that age group.

Networks and sponsors covet younger viewers, which helps explain ESPN’s decision to go all-in on World Cup telecasts; every game has been televised since 1998. The U.S.-Portugal game last Sunday drew 24.7 million viewers overall — and the 18.22 million who watched on ESPN were the most the network has ever garnered for an event not involving American football. The Germany game averaged 10.7 million viewers, making it the third-most watched World Cup game ever on the network.

Tapping into a populous that has become more ethnically diverse, the number of U.S. networks televising soccer grew from 11 to 21 and programming hours rose from 2,600 to 3,890 over the last four years — a 43 percent increase that matched the increase in TV advertising spending (from \$266 million to \$378 million), according to Nielsen. NBC Sports televises Premier League games, Fox has the UEFA Champions League and takes over the World Cup telecasts starting in 2018.

All in all, it’s a much different landscape from the one three decades ago, when the only regular soccer programming in America was the reliable PBS stalwart, “Soccer Made in Germany.”

“For decades, there was this wariness about soccer within U.S. culture and wariness that affected people at the top,” said Jay Coakley, a professor who examines sports’ role in society. “Now, that

By the numbers

24.7 53

Number of overall viewers, in millions, for last Sunday’s U.S.-Portugal match.

Percent of the 3.1 million tweets about the US-Ghana match sent by people aged 18-34.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

wariness is disappearing. People at the top are seeing soccer as a means of marketing their own interests.”

Video games, fantasy leagues, highlight shows, the steady stream of Ronaldo, Messi and other stars, both on the field and in advertisements, keep the sport in touch with the American mainstream in a way it hasn’t been before.

“Walking down the street now, you see kids wearing Manchester United jerseys and Chelsea Football Club jerseys and Barcelona, and I didn’t even know what those were as a kid,” said Mike Helfand, a 42-year-old Chicago attorney who has traveled the globe watching U.S. teams play.

Though America’s major league, the MLS, has worked to do to bring its level up to the European leagues, the league’s steady expansion, improving talent level and fan-friendly pricing will keep the sport on the radar after the World Cup ends.

Since 2010, the number of adults attending a big-time soccer match in the United States has increased by 87 percent.

The farther the U.S. goes in this year’s World Cup, the higher than number could rise over the next four years.

All of which has Forget looking to expand his soccer-pub business.

“I’ve had people come to the pub because a friend dragged them down here,” he said. “They’ll spend two hours watching a game and they’ll walk out the door and say, ‘I’m coming back next week.’ It can be a defining moment for people. It’s very, very different than what we’ve been used to here in America.”

Associated Press writer Leanne Italle in New York and AP Sports Writer Anne M. Peterson in Portland, Oregon, contributed to this report.

Marathon man

US midfielder Bradley is covering more ground than anyone in Brazil

By JANIE MCCAULEY
The Associated Press

SAO PAULO — Michael Bradley is just shy of a marathon in this World Cup.

He has run more than any other player in Brazil and might be right up there with Luis Suarez among the most scrutinized.

The U.S. midfielder is taking the heat from fans and soccer pundits for his lack of offensive production through the three Group G matches. Yet the Americans reached the knockout rounds in consecutive World Cups for the first time with the help of his defense. And Bradley has coach Jürgen Klinsmann’s utmost respect. The American Outlets’ even chanted “Michael Bradley! Michael Bradley!” after he was admonished by the referee for a studs-up tackle on Thomas Mueller in the 45th minute of Thursday’s 1-0 loss to Germany in Recife.

“I am very, very satisfied with Michael in this tournament so far,” Klinsmann said. “I know that he has another gear in him.”

Bradley has covered a World Cup-leading 23.6 miles, or 38 kilometers. Chilean midfielder Marcelo Diaz is the only other player to go more than 36 kilometers, with three others having covered slightly more than 35.

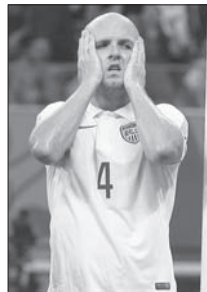
Klinsmann challenged all his players Friday once the team returned to its training base and held a session under sunny skies at Sao Paulo Futebol Clube in preparation for Tuesday’s knockout game against Belgium.

“I believe that in our team so far nobody can claim that he reached his 100 percent yet, so this is a very important message to the players that now prove it,” he said. “This is what you worked for so long, so hard for it. Now take it one game at a time with total focus just to this one game, and nobody that game is done to the next game and make it happen. Is it doable? Absolutely.”

The 26-year-old Bradley, who plays for Toronto FC in Major League Soccer, is starved for a goal this year on soccer’s biggest stage. Some of his touches have been heavy. His most memorable moment so far might be when he gave up the ball to Eder late in stoppage time, starting the sequence that led to Portugal’s equalizer in a 2-2 draw last Sunday in Manaus.

Not that it seems to have Klinsmann concerned. The Americans know they must find ways to generate more shots and put themselves in position to keep this special Brazilian run going beyond Tuesday in Salvador. Bradley is expected to connect better with captain Clint Dempsey, who in the last two matches has been the Americans’ lone forward.

“If he already plays on this level right now, we came through this group because of his influence on



MARTIN MEJIA/AP

United States midfielder Michael Bradley has covered a World Cup-leading 23.6 miles so far this tournament, although all that running hasn’t resulted in quite the offensive production many hoped for from the 26-year-old.

the field,” Klinsmann said, “then if he steps it up another notch, it gives us with other players as well... a big hope now getting ready for the knockout stage. Because we know that players have not reached their highest spot yet. He is one of them, but overall I am very, very happy with him. The leadership is, I mean he has covered so much ground, he is all over the place. The defensive work that Michael puts in is absolutely outstanding.”

And Klinsmann credits Bradley’s efforts in the back as a big reason Germany was unable to get many opportunities.

Bradley is his own toughest critic.

“I’m certainly honest enough and hard enough with myself to know that it wasn’t my sharpest night, but unfortunately they’re not all going to be,” he said after the Ghana game, a 2-1 victory. “And on those days it’s still about finding every possible way to help your team.”

Klinsmann has called on players at all positions to consciously think about moving upfield. The Americans realize full well it’s going to take everybody, not just Bradley behind Dempsey, pushing the attack to give them the best opportunity to reach the quarterfinals for the first time in 12 years.

“We needed to do a better job at the beginning of the game of not letting them have the ‘German effect.’ A lot of times teams will just sit back and allow them to come at you,” midfielder Graham Zusi said. “We didn’t really want them to do that. It took about 15-20 minutes for us to realize that we can knock the ball around as well.”

“The first minutes of the game, impose yourself, step on their toes a bit, get in their face. I think that once we realized that we could play, we saw it turn around.”

WORLD CUP

Scoreboard

Second round	
Saturday, June 28	Game 49
At Belo Horizonte, Brazil	Brazil vs. Chile
Sunday, June 29	Game 50
At Rio de Janeiro	Colombia vs. Uruguay
Sunday, June 29	Game 51
At Fortaleza, Brazil	Netherlands vs. Mexico
Game 52	At Recife, Brazil
Costa Rica vs. Greece	Monday, June 30
Game 53	At Brasilia, Brazil
France vs. Nigeria	Game 54
At Porto Alegre, Brazil	Germany vs. Algeria
Tuesday, July 1	Game 55
At Sao Paulo	Argentina vs. Switzerland
Game 56	At Salvador, Brazil
Belgium vs. United States	
Quarterfinals	
Friday, July 4	Game 57
At Fortaleza, Brazil	Brazil-Chile winner vs. Colombia-Uruguay winner
Game 58	At Rio de Janeiro
France-Nigeria winner vs. Germany-Algeria	
Saturday, July 5	Game 59
At Salvador, Brazil	Netherlands-Mexico winner vs. Costa Rica-Greece winner
Game 60	At Brasilia, Brazil
Argentina-Switzerland winner vs. Belgium-United States winner	
Semifinals	
Tuesday, July 8	At Belo Horizonte, Brazil
Game 57 winner vs. Game 58 winner	
Wednesday, July 9	At Sao Paulo
Game 59 winner vs. Game 60 winner	
THIRD PLACE	Saturday, July 12
At Brasilia, Brazil	Semifinal losers
CHAMPIONSHIP	Sunday, July 13
At Rio de Janeiro	Semifinal winners

Top-scoring Dutch to be tested

Stingy Mexico stands in way

By MIKE CORDER
The Associated Press

FORTALEZA, Brazil — The World Cup's highest-scoring team is about to meet arguably the tournament's best goalkeeper.

If the free-scoring Netherlands wants to progress to the quarterfinals in Brazil, it will have to do what only one man has done so far — beat Guillermo Ochoa.

The Mexico keeper has conceded just one goal, a late consolation strike by Croatia's Ivan Perisic in Mexico's 3-1 win.

The 28-year-old Ochoa kept out Samuel Eto'o as Mexico beat Cameroon 1-0 and then had one of the performances of the tournament the last time he appeared in Fortaleza, denying Neymar twice with spectacular saves and Thiago Silva late in the 0-0 draw with Brazil.

When the Brazil match ended, Mexico's players lined up to hug their man-of-the-match keeper.

"We respect (the Netherlands) as we do with all of the other teams, but we know that they are among the favorites to win the Cup and that does not scare us,



WONG MAYE-E/AP

Netherlands' Arjen Robben shouts after his team scored during Monday's 2-0 victory over Chile at the Itaquera Stadium in Sao Paulo. The Dutch won Group B and face Group A runner-up Mexico.

it motivates us," Ochoa said. "If we can beat them we will go very far."

Striker-turned-defender Dirk Kuyt is confident the Dutch, who have scored 10 times in three group matches including hammering in a stunning five against defending champion Spain, can find a way past Ochoa, too, on Sunday in Fortaleza's Arena Castela.

"We know our strengths in the team," said Kuyt. He mentioned speedy winger Arjen Robben, "but also we've got Robin van Persie. In my opinion, Wesley Sneijder is one of the best players in the world. So we want to use those strengths."

Mexico is in the round of 16 for the sixth straight time — only Brazil and Germany have a longer streak.



Round of 16
Netherlands vs. Mexico
AFN-Sports
5:30 p.m. Sunday CET



MATT DUNHAM/AP

Costa Rica's Joel Campbell controls the ball during Tuesday's Group D match against England at the Mineirao Stadium in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. Costa Rica faces Greece, a newcomer to the round of 16.

Costa Rica, Greece consider each other perfect opponents

By GERALD IMRAY
The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — This World Cup just got a whole lot easier for Costa Rica. According to the rankings, anyway.

Having left former champions Uruguay, Italy and England behind to seasonally win their group — one of the toughest at the World Cup — the Costa Ricans line up against their lowest-ranked opposition so far in Greece in the second round on Sunday.

It surprisingly has Costa Rica finding itself the favorite for a place in the quarterfinals. That's certainly a new situation for the small Central American country which arrived hoping to avoid finishing last in a group of supposed powerhouses and now has a chance to be in the last eight of the whole tournament.

"We were the Cinderella and now we are favorites. That's respect and we earned it," Costa Rica defender Michael Umana said.

Costa Rica came through with a succession of shocks, beating 2010 semifinalist Uruguay 3-1, stunning 2006 winner Italy 1-0 and then not having to stretch itself in a 0-0 draw with England.



Round of 16
Greece vs. Costa Rica
AFN-Sports
9:30 p.m. Sunday CET

No one can accuse the team of having it easy and yet it's unbeaten and hasn't conceded a goal at the World Cup since the 24th minute of its opening game.

Because of that, Greece, a former European champion, appears happy to accept the underdog role for the last 16 game at Recife's Arena Pernambuco.

"At this stage, everyone is considered an opponent who is better than us," Greece midfielder Lazaros Christodoulou said.

Costa Rica's expectations have sky-rocketed, not just because of the results but the way they earned them. It progressed from the group stage for the second time and first since 1990, doing it with panache and attacking verve and with forwards Joel Campbell and Bryan Ruiz leading the way.

"What we have accomplished is now part of history but there are still some chapters left and we want a happy ending," Costa Rica director of national teams Adrian Gutierrez said. "We know that this team has a ceiling but we still haven't seen it."

While Costa Rica has been flying high from the start, Greece has taken a little time to get going. The Greeks scored their first goals of the World Cup in their last group game and secured qualification at the very end via a hotly disputed injury-time penalty from Georgios Samaras against Ivory Coast.

Greece prides itself on defensive solidity and a more measured approach, but it's a team that is completely comfortable with its style and unafraid to play to its strengths.

"Our tactics have been the same in all the games: To stay tight in defense to contain the opponents and stay dangerous in attack," Greece coach Fernando Santos said. "The mistaken perception is to think that every team should play like Brazil or Barcelona, but they have the characteristics to play that way. ... But we are Greece."

Neither country has ever gone to the World Cup quarterfinals.

SPORTS

**Rafa rallies**Nadal advances despite dropping first set | **Page 26****WORLD CUP**

Pitch fever

Soccer getting boost in US from young fans

By **EDDIE PELLIS**
The Associated Press

Never mind that there were dozens of TV sets at the bar, many turned to pro wrestling, poker and bowling to provide background noise early one weekend morning. Jon Forget walked in, asked the bartender to change one set to soccer and got laughed out of the joint.

Fast forward almost two decades and there's no room to sit at the bar Forget runs these days. His concept for a soccer pub near downtown Denver is taking off, and a new generation of American-born soccer fans piled in by the hundreds Thursday to watch the U.S. advance to the World Cup knockout round despite a 1-0 loss to Germany.

Forget's success at the 3-year-old Three Lions pub is a microcosm of what's happening around America during the World Cup. Social media numbers are strong, TV ratings are setting records and, other than Brazil, no country's fans have bought more tickets to the games than those from the United States.

All this in a country that long fought against soccer's global intrigue, even though the number of American kids playing the game has been rising slowly for

decades.

"Over the past 25-30 years, you've seen people come over here from around the world and they know the game and they start influencing Americans," Forget said.

"This generation has the proper training, a lot more have played at a high level. They understand the game. It's not boring to them."

In fact, just the opposite.

**SEE YOUNG
ON PAGE
30**



Thousands of U.S. fans watch Thursday's World Cup match against Germany on large-screen TVs at Canalside in downtown Buffalo, N.Y.

JAMES P. MCCOY, THE BUFFALO NEWS/AP

Yanks take first game from BoSox
MLB, Page 29

Panthers take Ekblad with top pick
NHL Draft, Page 26

Harvick holds off Keselowski
Sports Briefs, Page 25